キャプテンキッド

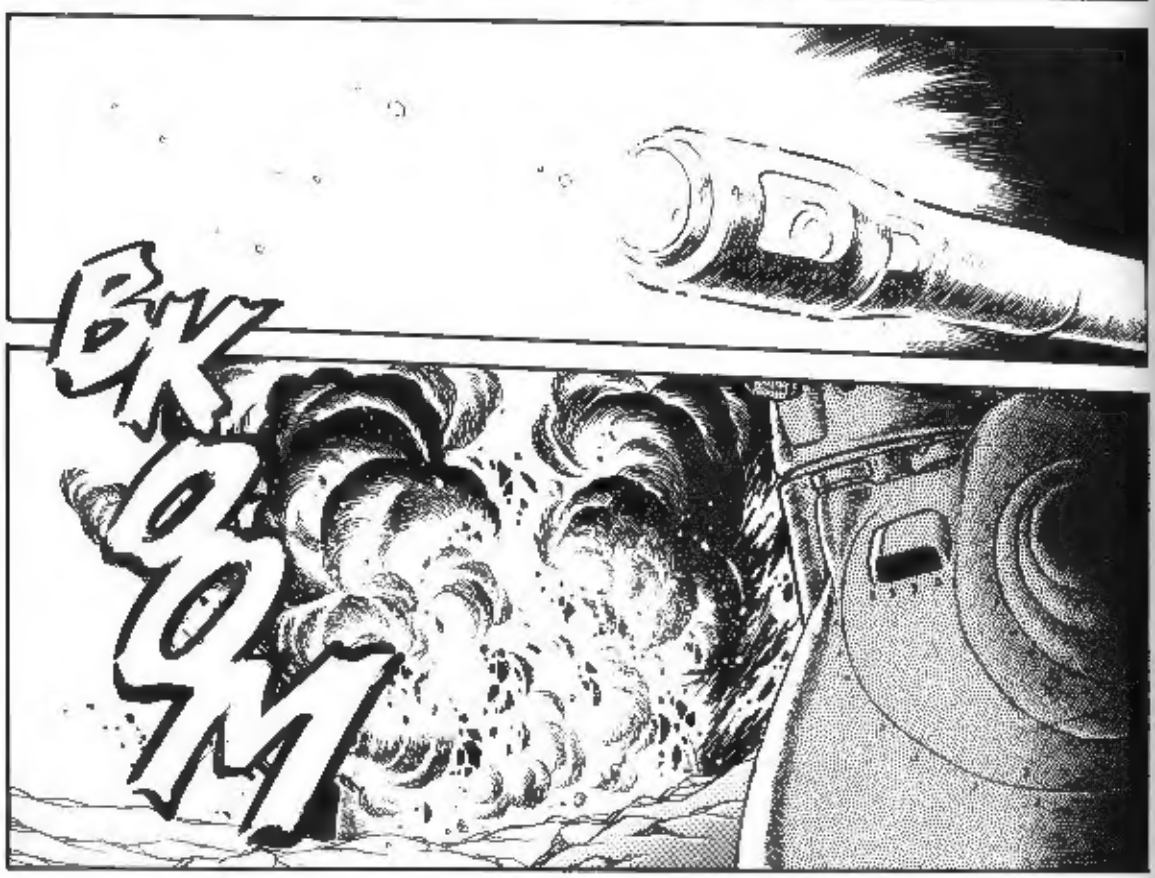
2

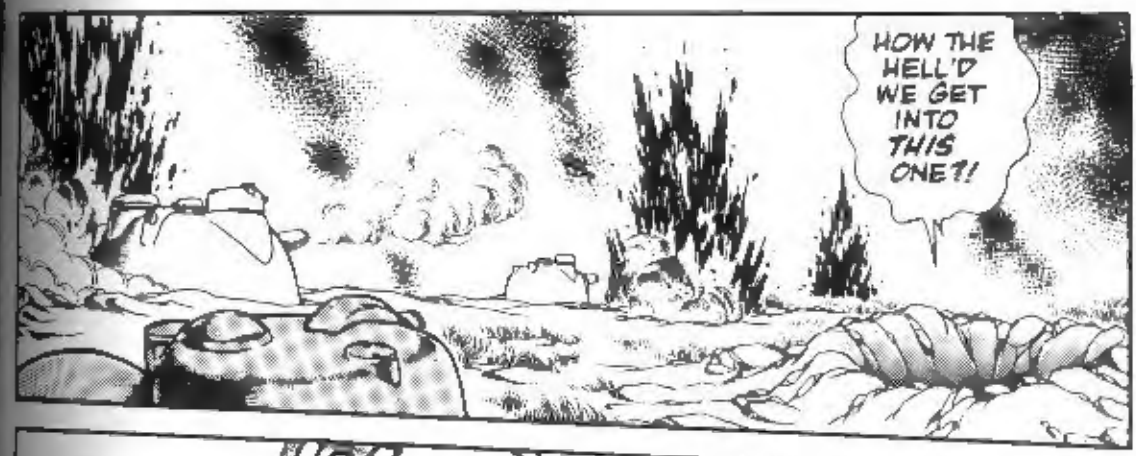
真鍋譲治
Johji Manabe

Shonen Sunday Comics

The Problem with Wataru

WHKAAM!


BK
OOM


HOW THE HELL'D WE GET INTO THIS ONE?!

IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT, MIAN! IT WAS YOUR IDEA TO SET UP CAMP OUT HERE!
WHAM
HOW SHOULD I KNOW THEY'D RESERVED IT FOR A SHOOTING WAR?!

HMM... I WONDER WHO'S TAKING ON THE EMPIRE'S ARMOR?
WHY DON'T YOU WONDER ABOUT GETTING US OUT OF HERE?!

BKOOM
YA, EEE!!

HEY, HEY, NATARU! GET A LOAD OF THESE WACKY TANKS...
TANKS?

WHAT THE HECK? THOSE THINGS ARE TANKS?!
WOW...

GRAAARGH!
BKAMM
WHAT ARMY IS IT, Y'THINK ?
NO IDEA--BUT THEY'RE DAMN STRONG WHOEVER THEY ARE! THE EMPIRE'S GETTING STOMPED.
WHKOOM

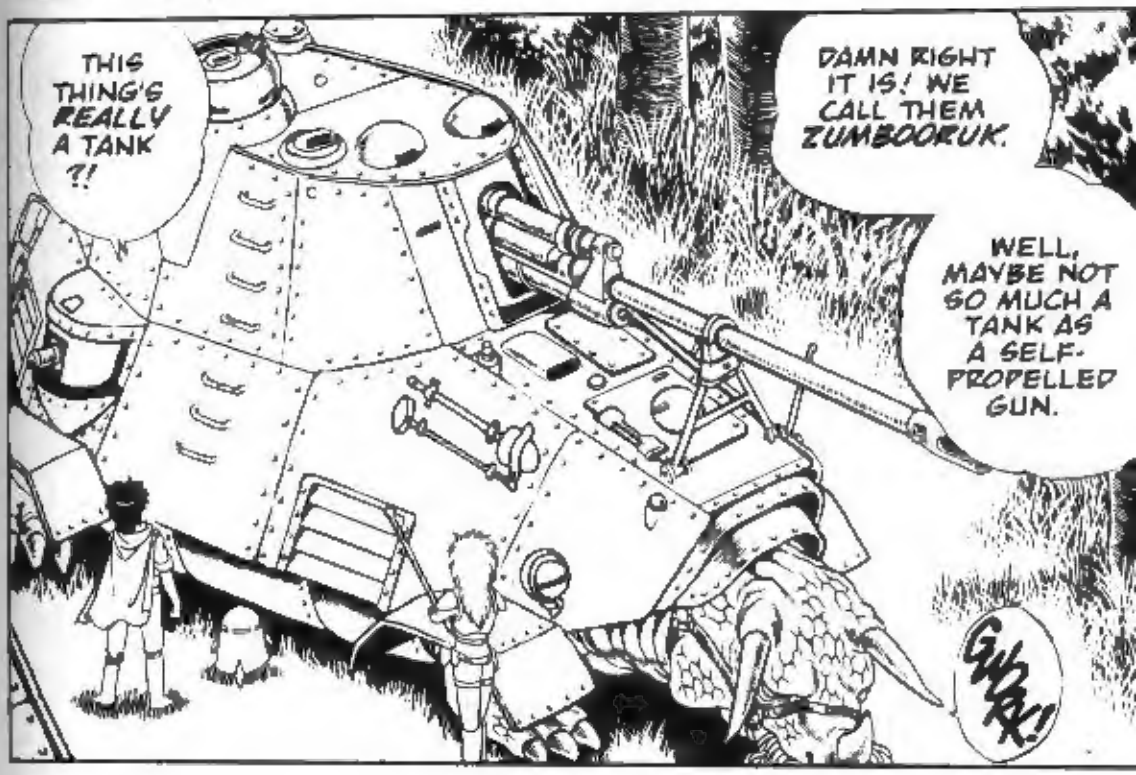
HMM... COMMANDER'S LOG, CIGARETTES... HEY!
AW, IT'S JUST A LOUSY ID CARD.
DIDN'T THESE GUYS CARRY ANYTHING WORTH DECENT MONEY? BUNCHA CHEAP STIFFS!
WHEW... GUESS IT'S FINALLY OVER.
EUREKA!! THIS GUY'S GOT GOLD FILLINGS! HOLD HIS HEAD, WATARU!
JESUS, BABO! WOULD YOU STOP THAT ?!
DAMNED INCONSIDERATE, WHOEVER THEY ARE...COULDN'T THEY FIGHT THEIR WAR SOMEWHERE ELSE?
AS LONG AS THEY STAY WELL AWAY FROM US, I'M HAPPY.
HOLD IT!!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU ASSHOLES ?!

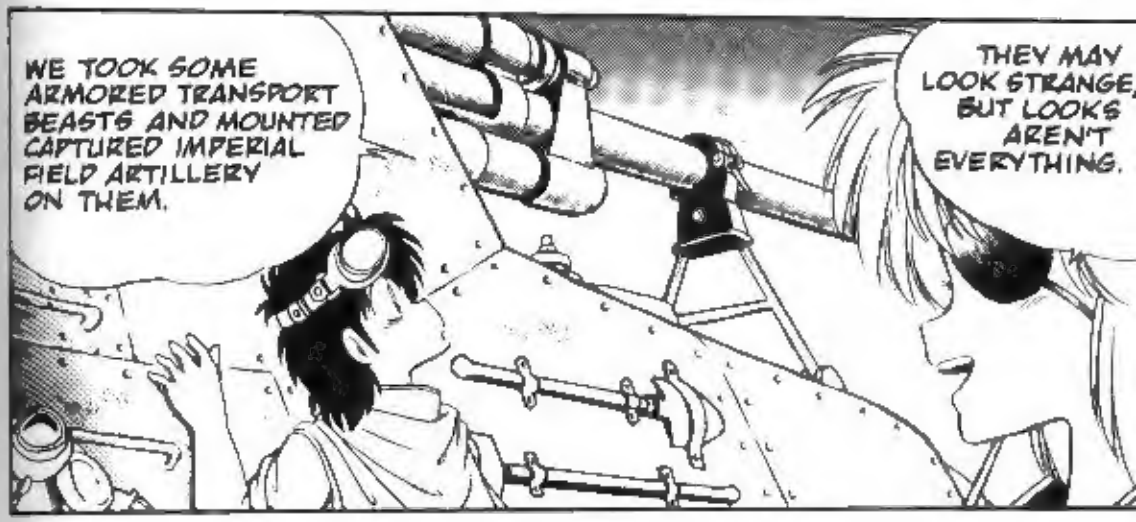
HEY, KHADA! C'MERE!
WHO ARE THESE GUYS ?
BEATS ME, BOSS. WE FOUND THEM POKING AROUND THE BATTLEFIELD.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I GOTTA TELL YOU?! WE GOT TRAPPED IN YOUR DAMNED SHOOTOUT, THAT'S WHAT!
YOU TELL 'EM, WATARU! WE'RE HONEST, UPRIGHT CITIZENS!
C'MON, MIAN! TELL THEM WHAT HAPPENED!
WHY? YOU THINK THEY'LL BELIEVE ME JUST BECAUSE IM A WOMAN, TOO?
A WOMAN... TOO ?!
HEY, YOU'RE RIGHT-- THEY'RE ALL WOMEN !!
YOW! COMBAT BABES!
WE'RE CALLED GRIEF-- THE WOMEN'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMORED BRIGADE!

"GRIEF"...? WHY ARE YOU--
'CAUSE THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GONNA GIVE THE EMPIRE! WE'LL DRIVE THOSE HELGEBARD BASTARDS INTO THE SEA!
DON'T FOOL YOURSELF, HONEY.
WHAT ?!
MIAN !! JEEZ !
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! MIAN, MIAN...
I'VE HEARD THAT NAME BEFORE...
!
NOW I GOT IT! SO YOU'RE THE NOTORIOUS MIAN TORIS...
...THE WOMAN WITH THE SIX-MILLION-D.D. BOUNTY ON HER HEAD!
SO WHAT'S IT TO YA ?!
YOU WANT THE MONEY, YOU COME AND GET IT!
HAW! DON'T SWEAT IT, DARLIN'! YOU'RE A HERO!!

HEY, GIRLS! CUT THOSE ROPES!
HUH ?
COME ON! THINK ABOUT IT-- I'M THE LEADER OF A BUNCH OF REBELS, REMEMBER?! THERE'S A PRICE ON MY HEAD, TOO!
GLAD TO HAVE MET YA! THE NAME'S KHADA!
YOU GOTTA TELL ME, MIAN--
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO? THE EMPIRE SURE MUST HATE YOUR GUTS TO PUT THAT MUCH MONEY ON THE LINE.
NOTHING SPECIAL...
OH, YEAH ?
I'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT WHAT A BIG SHOT YOU ARE...
BIG ENOUGH THAT THEY'LL BURN WHOLE CITIES TO THE GROUND JUST TO FIND YOU.
WOW, MIAN'S THAT FAMOUS?! HEY, CAN I GET YOUR AUTOGRAPH ?
YOU THIMBLE-BRAINED NERK !!
IF YOU WANT, WHY DON'T YOU HANG OUT WITH US AWHILE?
YOU'RE ON THE RUN, AREN'T YOU?
THANKS, BUT NO THANKS-- WE'VE GOT OTHER THINGS WE'VE GOT TO DO!
DO YOU, NOW...? WELL, I CAN'T MAKE YOU STAY. BUT IT'S A DAMN SHAME...

PRETTY WEIRD...


THIS THING'S REALLY A TANK ?!
DAMN RIGHT IT IS! WE CALL THEM ZUMBOORUK.
WELL, MAYBE NOT SO MUCH A TANK AS A SELF-PROPELLED GUN.
GURRK!


WE TOOK SOME ARMORED TRANSPORT BEASTS AND MOUNTED CAPTURED IMPERIAL FIELD ARTILLERY ON THEM.
THEY MAY LOOK STRANGE, BUT LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING.

76.2MM MAIN GUNS, FIRING SUBCALIBER ARMOR-PIERCING SHELLS.
WE OUTRANGE THEM TWICE OVER-- IT'S A TURKEY SHOOT
THESE UGLY SUCKERS ARE OUR SECRET WEAPON, BOY. THE IMPERIALS ARE SMOKIN' SCRAP BEFORE THEY KNOW WHAT HIT THEM
WOW.. PRETTY SLICK.
KBOOM!
BY THE WAY--UH-- "WATARU," RIGHT?
JUST WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN YOU AND MIAN?
HUH ?!
LOVE AT FIRST SI--
WHAK
GURK
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!
FIVE MINUTES AFTER WE MET SHE SLAPPED THESE DAMNED COLLARS ON US AND CALLED US HER PETS!
IN THAT CASE, HOW ABOUT THIS--
WHY DON'T YOU HOOK UP WITH US?!

"US" .? YOU MEAN, WITH YOU GUERRILLAS?
WHAT KIND OF PAY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

ACTUALLY, WE USED TO HAVE A FEW MEN WITH US, BUT THEY ALL GOT WASTED.
BE GOOD TO HAVE GUYS AROUND AGAIN.

WHADDA YA THINK, WATARU?
WE'D TREAT YOU RIGHT

JUST ONE SECOND HERE!!
!

THOSE ARE MY TRAVELING COMPANIONS--
--AND I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D KEEP YOUR GRUBBY PAWS OFF THEM, BITCH!

NOBODY ASKED YOUR OPINION!
I WAS ASKING WATARU WHAT HE THINKS

SAME DIFFERENCE-- COME ON, YOU GUYS!
HUH? WE HITTIN' THE ROAD ALREADY?

NOW JUST YOU WAIT A MINUTE!
WATARU! I STILL HAVEN'T HEARD YOUR ANSWER!
DON'T TELL ME YOU LIKE BEING HER LAPDOG ?!
OH, NO!
WELL, WATARU ?
ER GEE, IT'S SO UNEXPECTED. I, EH-HEH.
OH, COME ON, WATARU--A WIMP LIKE YOU COULD NEVER MAKE IT AS A GUERRILLA.
HMPH...
YOU HEAR THAT, BOY?
SHE SURE DON'T THINK MUCH OF YOU EH ?
I SAID KEEP YOUR PAWS OFF HIM!
OH, DID YOU, NOW... ?

SHREEEE
!!
HIT THE DECK !!
WHRAM
WHRAM
WHRA
GOODAMMIT! THE REINFORCEMENTS!
N NOT AGAIN

KHADA! FIVE ENEMY TANKS ENTERING SECTOR D!
RIGHT! WE'RE MOVING OUT! PREPARE FOR ACTION!
DON'T THESE SCUM EVER GIVE UP?!
KHADA!
NEVER UNDERESTIMATE YOUR ENEMY-- THE IMPERIALS ARE PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS.
WE CAN TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES, DEAR.
HAUL ASS! GET INTO YOUR 'RUKS!

KHADA ?

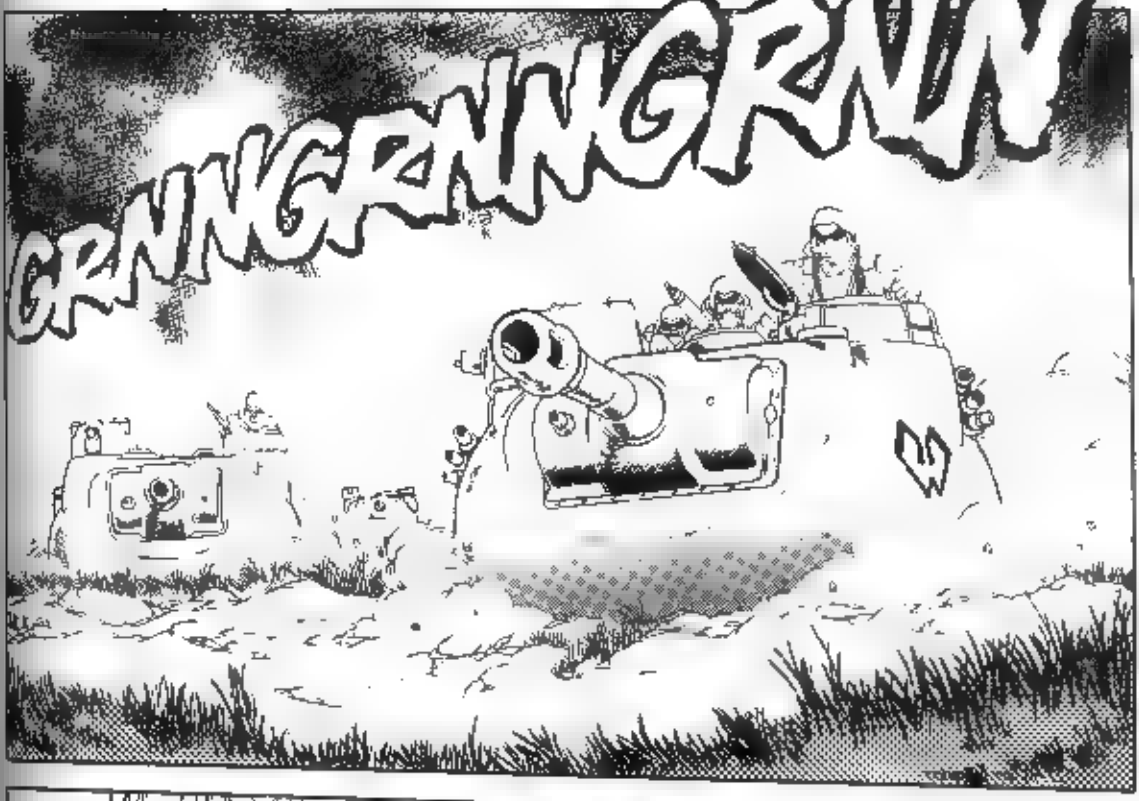
CAN YOU REALLY HANDLE THEM ?
HEY DON'T WORRY. WE'RE GONNA KICK SERIOUS BUTT

WHEN WE GET BACK, I WANT TO HEAR YOUR DECISION, OKAY ?

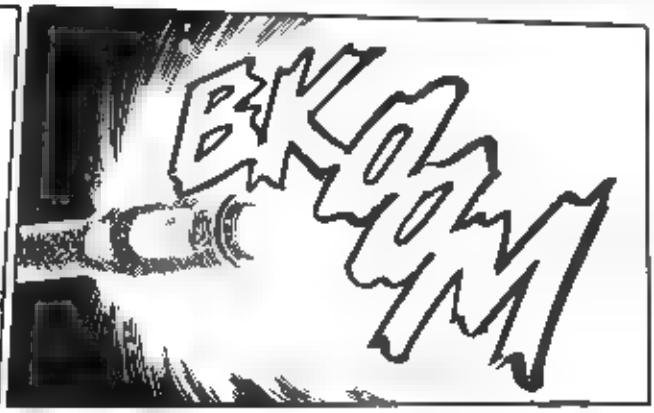
ALL RIGHT! MOVE 'EM OUT!

WORRIED ABOUT HER ?
OF COURSE! WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ?!

KRANGG
KRANGG
WE'LL ATTACK AS SOON WE CLEAR THE FOREST!
DEPLOY INTO COMBAT FORMATION.
THERE THEY ARE GANG! TWO O'CLOCK RANGE TWO THOUSAND!
LET THEM CLOSE TO FIFTEEN-HUNDRED. THEN MAKE EVERY SHOT COUNT!


GRNNGRNNGRNN

LET'S CRUSH THESE COCK-ROACHES ONCE AND FOR ALL!!
FIRE!


BKOOM

SPANG

BKOOM

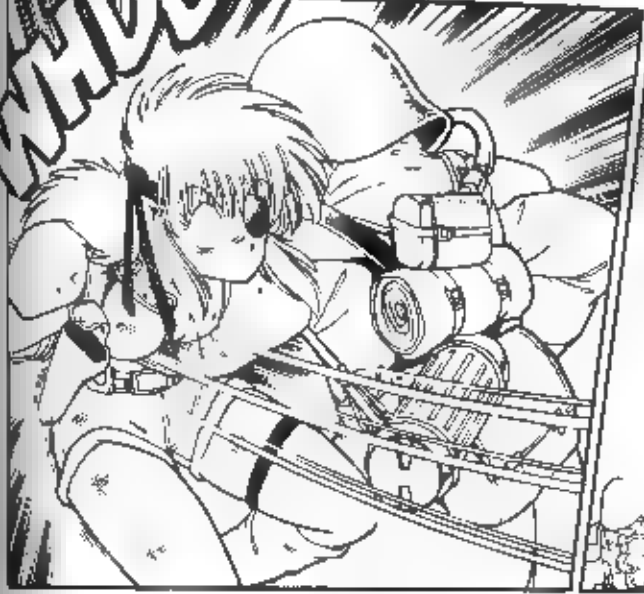
GRANGG

WHAT THE HELL? THEY'RE JUST BOUNCING OFF!
KHADA! THOSE AREN'T REGULAR MARK I TANKS!
DAMN! IT'S THE MARK II, WITH THAT EXTRA ARMOR!
BKAM
WHOOM
KHADA, WE'VE GOT SERIOUS PROBLEMS-- THEY'VE UPGRADED THEIR CANNONS, TOO!
DON'T WIMP OUT! THE BATTLE'S JUST BEGUN!

SHIT! THEY'RE CHARGING R GHT AT US!
DON'T RUN! DRAW THEM IN AND HIT THEM CLOSE!
EXPLOSION...
SPANG
SON OF A BITCH !!

ALL RIGHT-- WE CAN'T TAKE THEM HEAD ON! GLIMMA, CIRCLE TO THE LEFT!
SHARA, YOU TAKE THE RIGHT FLANK-- SET UP FOR A PINCERS!
HMM. SOUNDS PRETTY BAD OUT THERE, HUH?
YEAH
MIAN! YOU'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!
NOT ME, NO WAY
SHE THINKS SHE'S SUCH HOT SHIT--
--LET HER HANDLE IT BY HERSELF!
OH, COME ON! YOU COULD JUST WHACK 'EM WITH YOUR SWORD, LIKE YOU DID BEFORE
SURE I WILL-- NOT!
BABO ?!
I DON'T DO ANYTHING THAT WON'T TURN A PROFIT
BEEP BEEP
DIDN'T THINK SO...

KRAKK


WHDD

HRRK
HAW HAW!

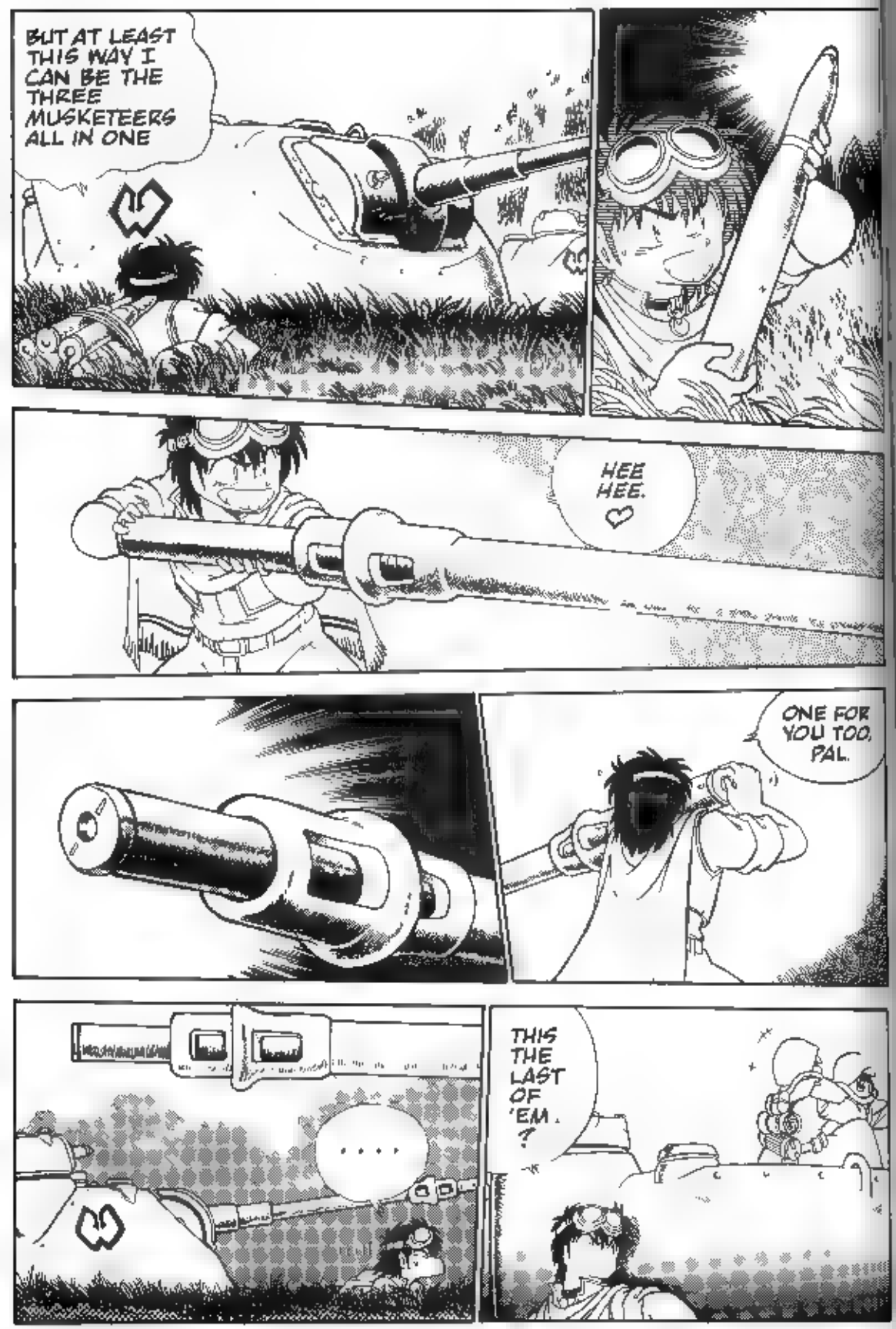
KHADA !

hahh
huhh
hhhh

HEH, HEH, HEH ENJOYING YOURSELF, KHADA ?

SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO US ?!
THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF USES FOR WOMEN.
I IMAGINE THAT ONCE WE'VE.. HAD OUR FILL
WE'LL TURN YOU OVER TO THE MEDICAL CORPS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MARCH OF SCIENCE, EH?
GIVE A PRISONER TO EACH PLATOON !
MAKE SURE THEY LAST!
YESSIR!
I WON'T FORGET THIS, YOU BASTARD..
SILENCE !!
SMAK
YOUR LITTLE BAND OF BITCHES HAS GIVEN US A LOT OF TROUBLE.
SO, OF COURSE, WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE THE BIG BOSS SOME SPECIAL TREATMENT
PERHAPS YOU COULD SERVICE A FEW DOZEN OF US IN FRONT OF YOUR COMRADES, HMM?

EH HEH
G-GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!
KSSH
KSSH
URFF... THESE DAMN SHELLS ARE HEAVY..
JEEZ.. HOW'D I WIND UP WITH SO MANY SELFISH JERKS FOR MY FRIENDS?

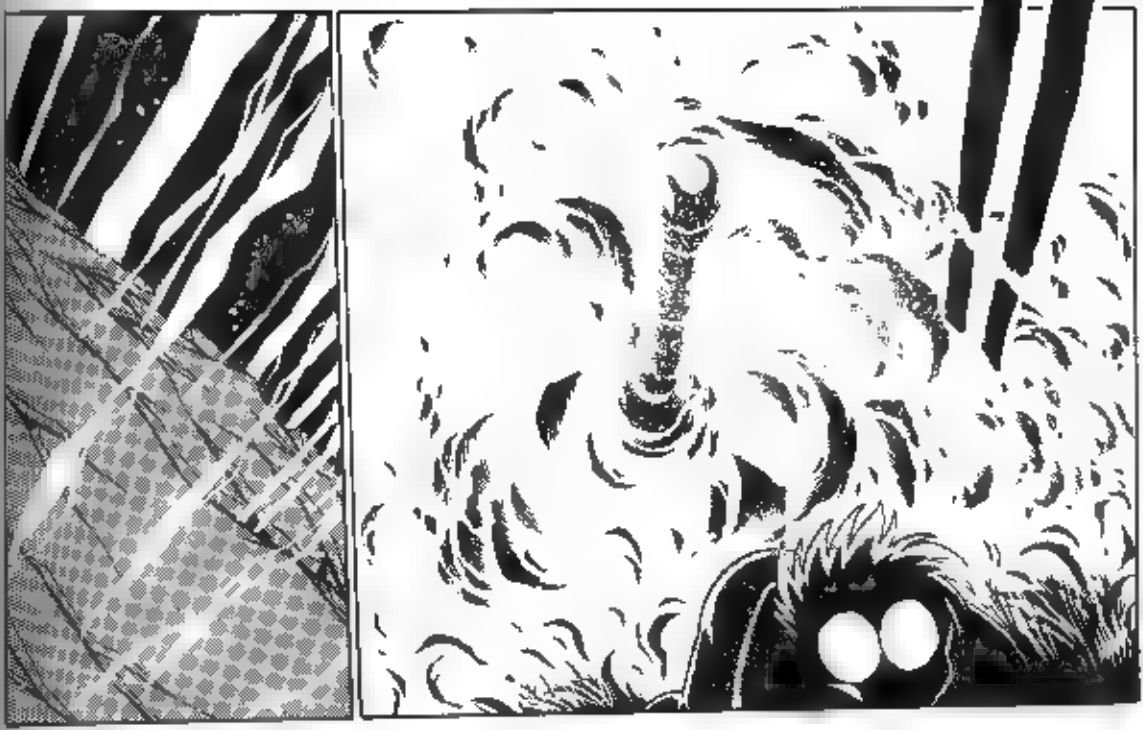

BUT AT LEAST THIS WAY I CAN BE THE THREE MUSKETEERS ALL IN ONE
HEE HEE.
ONE FOR YOU TOO, PAL.
. . . .
THIS THE LAST OF 'EM . ?

NAIL 'ER, GUYS!
LET'S SEE I THINK THIS--
KICK
UWAAH!
BKAM
WHKOOM
YAAEE!
!
WHAT WAS THAT ?!
ARE WE UNDER ATTACK ?!!

RIGHT ON!!
HEY!! WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
!!
GUERRILLAS HAVE CAPTURED TANK THREE! STOP THEM!!
GRNNGRNNGRNN
YEEOW! RUN FOR IT!!
FIRE!!
FKAMMM

WHKROOM
HAH!! TAKE THAT, YOU IMPERIAL BASTARDS!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! FIRE! THE GUERRILLAS ARE ONBOARD!
WHKOOM
THEY'VE BLOWN UP ALL THE TANKS!
IT'S A GUERRILLA ATTACK! RETREAT! RETREAT !!

KHADA!
WATARU!
WHKROOM
YIPPEE
OOPS. THERE WAS ANOTHER ONE IN THE WOODS.
CHOK



?
?

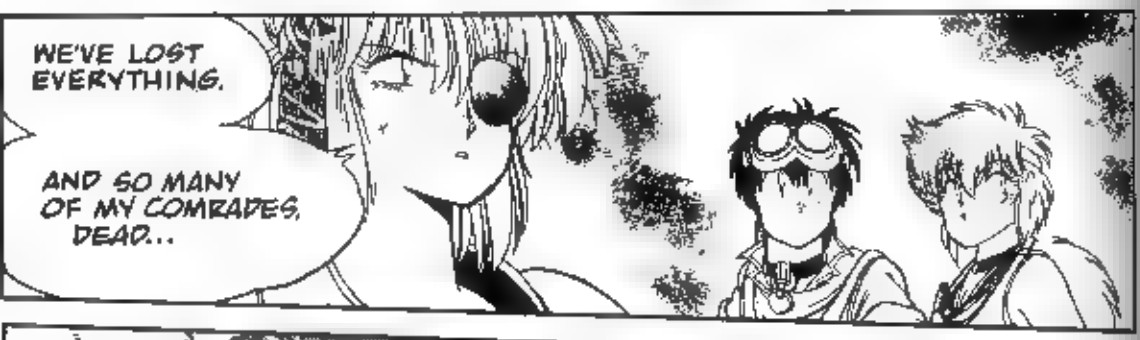
YOU DO CAUSE A LOT OF TROUBLE, DON'T YOU ?
MIAN ?

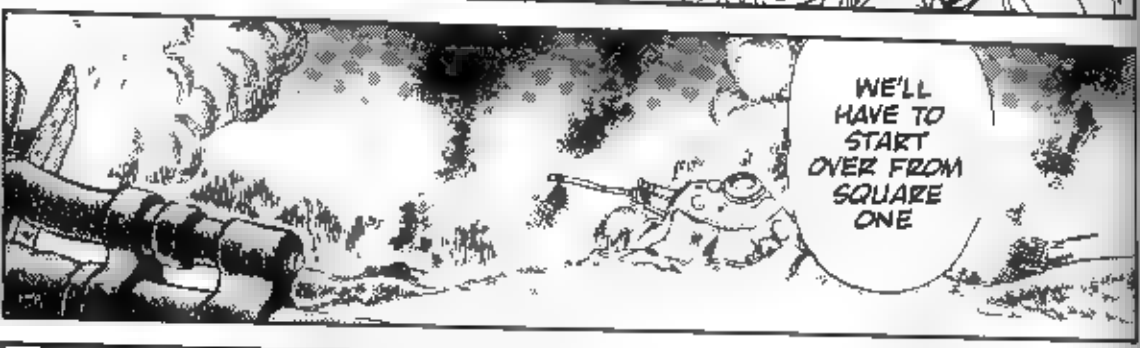
DON'T GET CARELESS, WATARU.
VICTORY IN BATTLE GOES TO THE LAST SURVIVOR.

KHADA! YOU OKAY?!
YEAH..

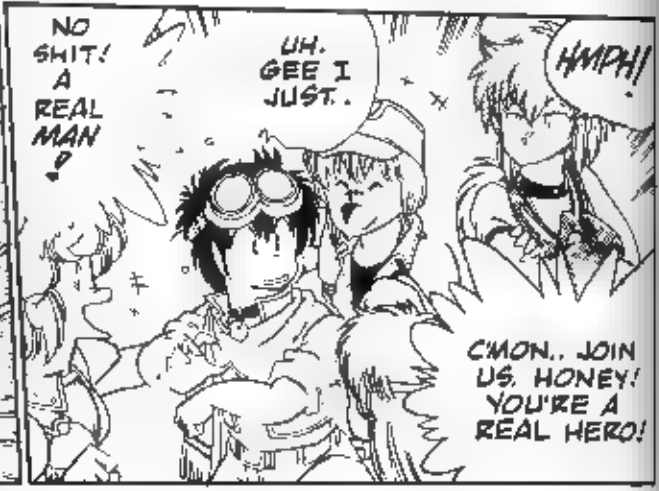
DON'T WORRY.
I'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT WORSE.

N-NO KIDDING...


WE'VE LOST EVERYTHING.
AND SO MANY OF MY COMRADES, DEAD...


WE'LL HAVE TO START OVER FROM SQUARE ONE

BUT HEY, WATARU! YOU WERE DAMN GOOD!


NO SHIT! A REAL MAN!
UH. GEE I JUST..
HMPH!
C'MON.. JOIN US, HONEY! YOU'RE A REAL HERO!

YEAH, WELL, MAYBE I WILL THIS HERO BUSINESS SUITS ME FINE! THAT, AND ALL THESE BABES...!

I GOT TO ADMIT IT, I READ YOU WRONG.
HUH ?

OH, NOTHING IT'S JUST THAT WHEN I FIRST MET YOU, I THOUGHT...
THOUGHT WHAT?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A GUY I COULD TRUST WITH THE COOKING, WASHING, AND HOUSECLEANING!
WWWHAAAT!!

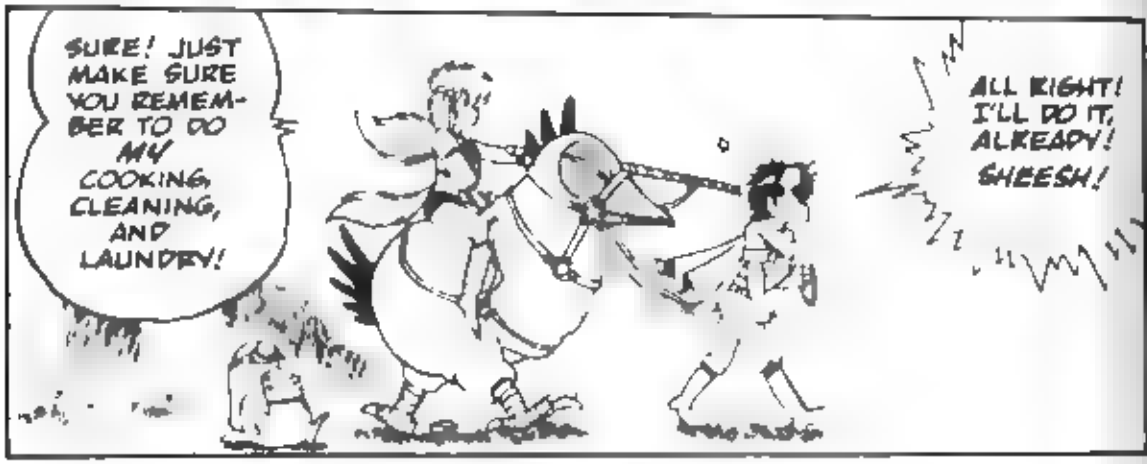
COME ON ALREADY, MIAN! TELL ME!
WHAT'S THE KID SO UPSET ABOUT ?

HE MISSED HIS CHANCE TO BE A BIG REBEL HERO, THAT'S ALL!
A HERO? WATARU? YOU'RE PUTTING ME ON...

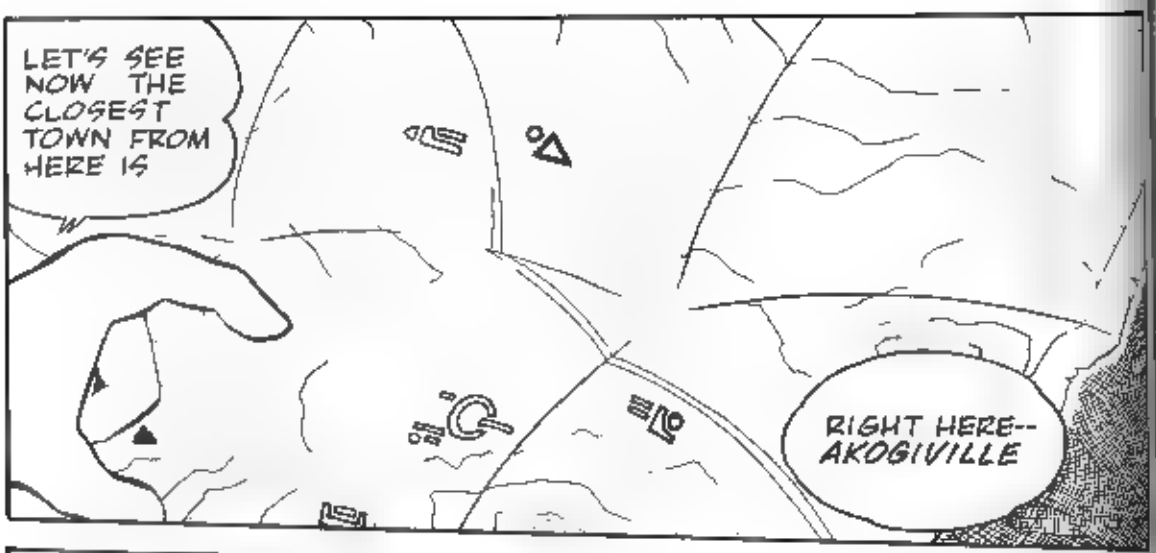
IN AN AMAZON GUERRILLA BAND LIKE THAT, THE WOMEN FIGHT WHILE THE MEN STAY HOME AND KEEP HOUSE
!
A GUY WHO CAN COOK AND DO THE LAUNDRY IS A REAL HERO!

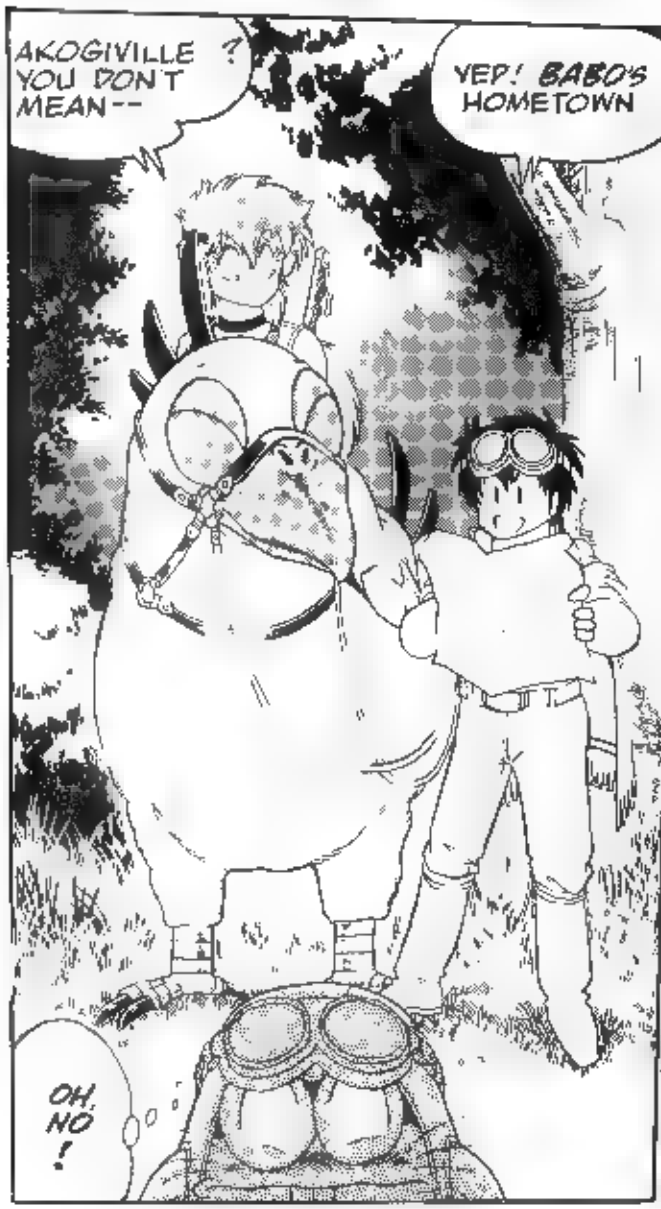
WHAT A SHAME, MMM? THE HERO WHO WASN'T
AW, GET STUFFED!

SO MAYBE NOW YOU'VE LEARNED NOT TO ACCEPT ANY CASUAL INVITATIONS ?
JUST SHUT UP AND LEAVE ME ALONE!


SURE! JUST MAKE SURE YOU REMEMBER TO DO MY COOKING, CLEANING, AND LAUNDRY!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL DO IT, ALREADY! SHEESH!

Babo-Land!


LET'S SEE NOW THE CLOSEST TOWN FROM HERE IS
RIGHT HERE-- AKOGIVILLE


AKOGIVILLE ? YOU DON'T MEAN--
YEP! BABO'S HOMETOWN
OH, NO !

NO KIDDING? BABO'S HOME?
THAT SHOULD BE INTERESTING !

NO! NO WAY! ABSOLUTELY NOT!!
HUH ?
WHY NOT ?

EVEN YOU MUST GET HOMESICK SOMETIMES

I SAID NO AND I MEAN NO, NO, NO!!

NO ONE WANTS TO VISIT THAT PLACE!!

HOW ABOUT YOU, WATARU?

WELL, GEE I'VE NEVER SEEN BABO'S HOME BEFORE

AND YOU WON'T NOW! WE'RE NOT GOING!

IF YOU ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO GO, GO BY YOURSELVES!

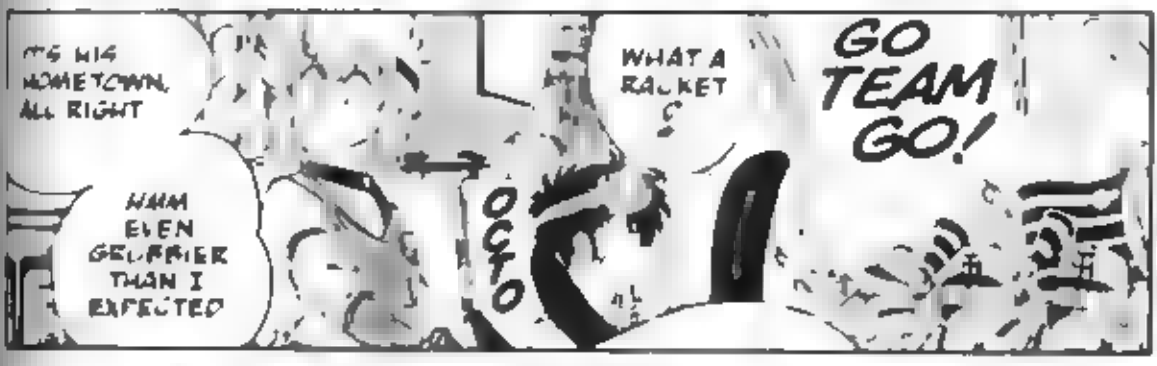
ENOUGH! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN WHO OWNS YOU?!

IF I WANT TO GO TO AKOGI, YOU'LL COME LIKE YOU'RE TOLD!

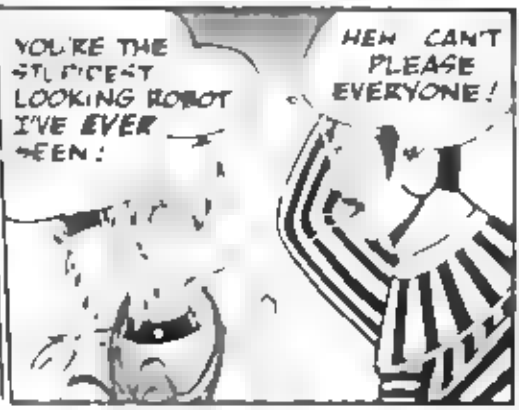
YOU MAKING MONEY?!

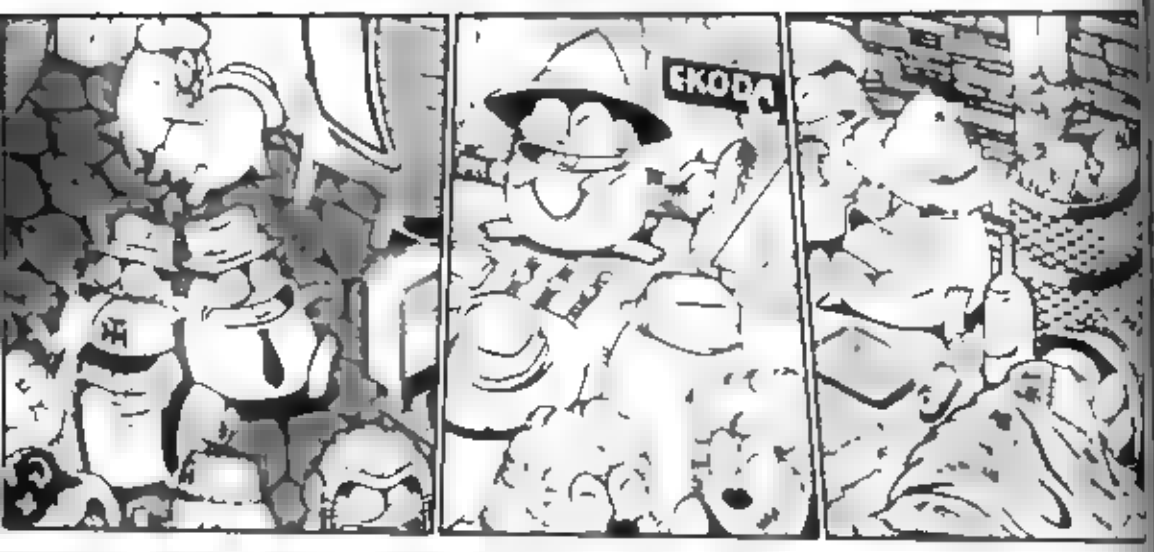
AKOGIVILLE! MONEY CAPITAL OF THE WORLD!!
MAKING MONEY!!
YOU MAKING MONEY ?
YOU MAKING MONEY ?
YOU MAKING MONEY ?
YOU MAKING MONEY ?

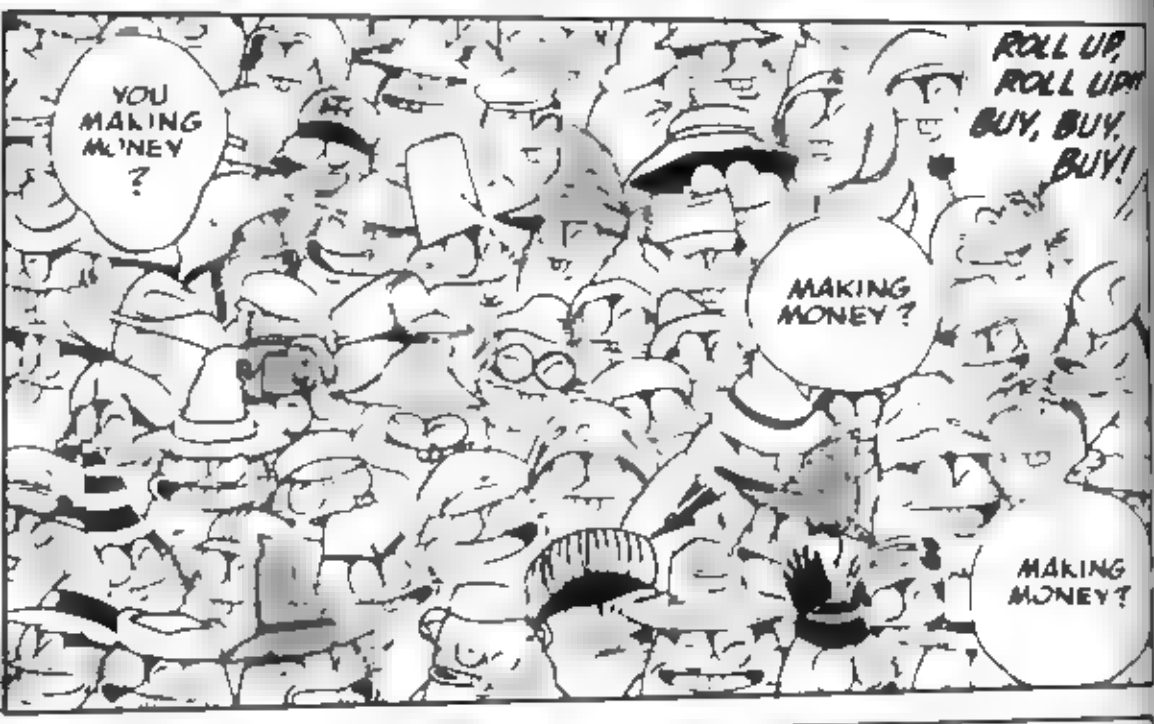
CRAB
15 O.D.
GITCHER RED HOTS!
TASTY! CHEAP!
COOK WANTED
HIRING NOW


IT'S BIG HOMETOWN, ALL RIGHT
HMM EVEN GEEKIER THAN I EXPECTED
WHAT A RACKET
OCTO
GO TEAM GO!

YOU MAKING MONEY ?!

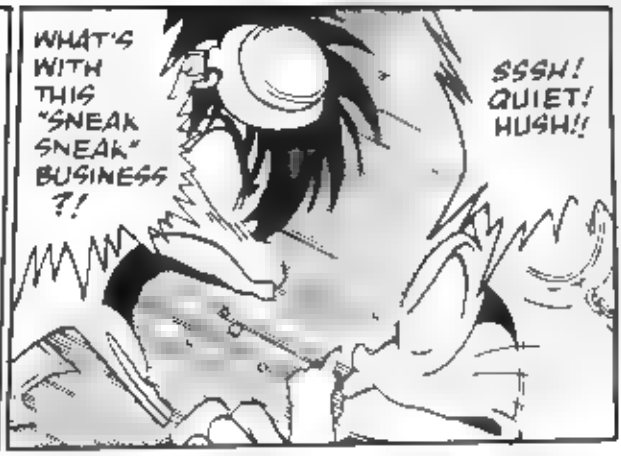

YOU'RE THE STUPIDEST LOOKING ROBOT I'VE EVER SEEN!
HEM CAN'T PLEASE EVERYONE!


EKODA


YOU MAKING MONEY ?
ROLL UP, ROLL UP! BUY, BUY, BUY!
MAKING MONEY ?
MAKING MONEY ?

. . . .
. . . .
I THINK I FEEL SICK.
ulp
GEE, THAT'S TOO BAD THESE AMAGI OCTOPUS DUMPLINGS ARE GREAT!
BIG TOO!

YAAAAH
SNEAK SNEAK

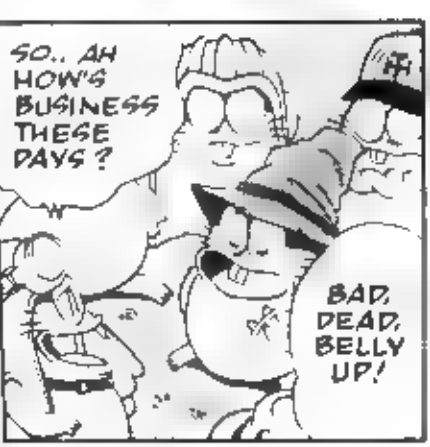

WHAT'S WITH THIS "SNEAK SNEAK" BUSINESS ?!
SSSH! QUIET! HUSH!!

HEY, OVER THERE! ISN'T THAT BABO ?!
NO KIDDING! IT IS HIM!
HEY, BAAABO !
AOKI-YA
AIEE!

HEY WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN YEARS!! WHEN DID YOU HIT TOWN ?!
RMBRMB
HEY, NOT VERY FRIENDLY PAL! COMING BACK WITHOUT LETTIN' US KNOW!!
UH, YEAH.. ER, I

M-M-MAKING MONEY ?
MAKIN' MONEY !!

WHAT'S GOING ON ?
BEATS ME I THINK IT'S SOME KIND OF GREETING


SO.. AH HOW'S BUSINESS THESE DAYS ?
BAD, DEAD, BELLY UP!

HELGEBARD AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF PORKERS STARTED SHOOTING IT UP NEARBY!
NO KIDDIN'!
EVER SINCE, WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY CUSTOMERS FROM OUT OF TOWN SALES ARE IN THE TOILET!
I EVEN JUMPED OUTTA MY OFFICE WINDOW!
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND THE TIGERS WON THE PENNANT WHILE YOU WERE GONE. FIRST TIME IN FIFTY YEARS!
JUST ONCE I'D LIKE TO HAVE SICK LEAVE
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, BABO?
BET YOU BEEN RAKING IN, MONEYBAGS!!
UH, I ER
YEAH! YEAH!! YOU BET!!
THAT'S OUR BABO-- NOBODY OUTPRICES YOU!
GREAT! LET'S TAKE HIM TO THE BIG BOSS!!
YAAAH!! WAIT! STOP! DON'T!
?
UH, OH...
ROCK-BOTTOM PRICES!! BIG SALE!!
WAAAH!!
NOW HOW MUCH WOULD YOU PAY?!

WHAT THE HELL?!! YOU CALL THESE SALES?!!

WHOK

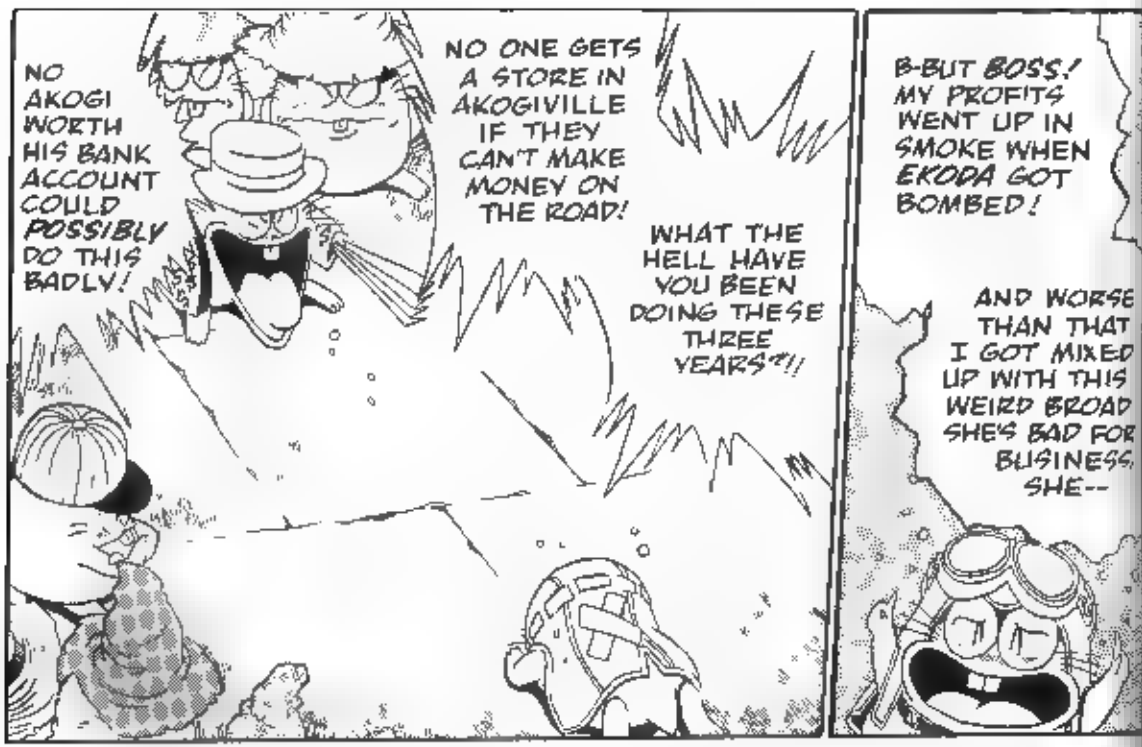
YOU COME BACK FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, I FIGURE YOU'VE BEEN MAKING MONEY!!

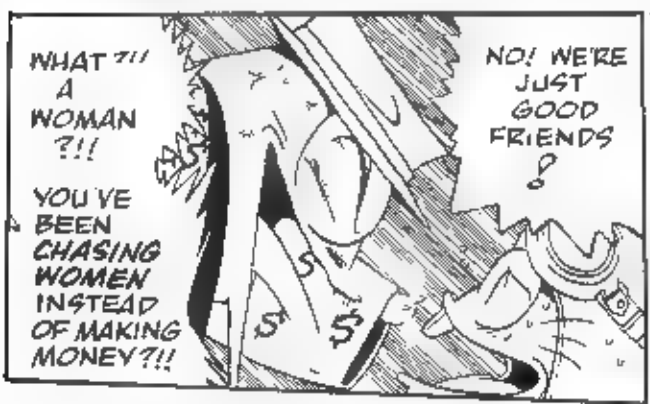
AND WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?! EH?!

BALANCE OUTSTANDING SIXTY-THREE D.D.!! AND NOT A CENT OF PROFIT IN WEEKS!!

NET BALANCE
74
72
63

YOU CAN'T EVEN USE AN ATM CARD FOR LESS THAN A HUNDRED D.D.!!


NO AKOGI WORTH HIS BANK ACCOUNT COULD POSSIBLY DO THIS BADLY!
NO ONE GETS A STORE IN AKOGIVILLE IF THEY CAN'T MAKE MONEY ON THE ROAD!
WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN DOING THESE THREE YEARS?!!
B-BUT BOSS! MY PROFITS WENT UP IN SMOKE WHEN EKODA GOT BOMBED!
AND WORSE THAN THAT I GOT MIXED UP WITH THIS WEIRD BROAD SHE'S BAD FOR BUSINESS. SHE--


WHAT?!! A WOMAN?!! YOU'VE BEEN CHASING WOMEN INSTEAD OF MAKING MONEY?!!
NO! WE'RE JUST GOOD FRIENDS!

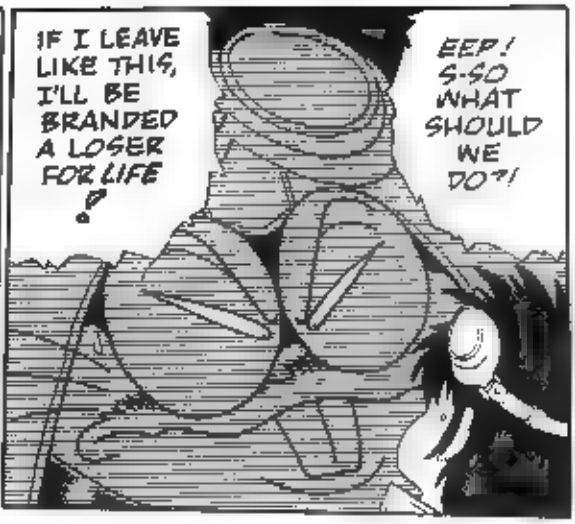
DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE AKOGI CREED, BABO?!
OH, NO, BOSS! NEVER· NO WAY!

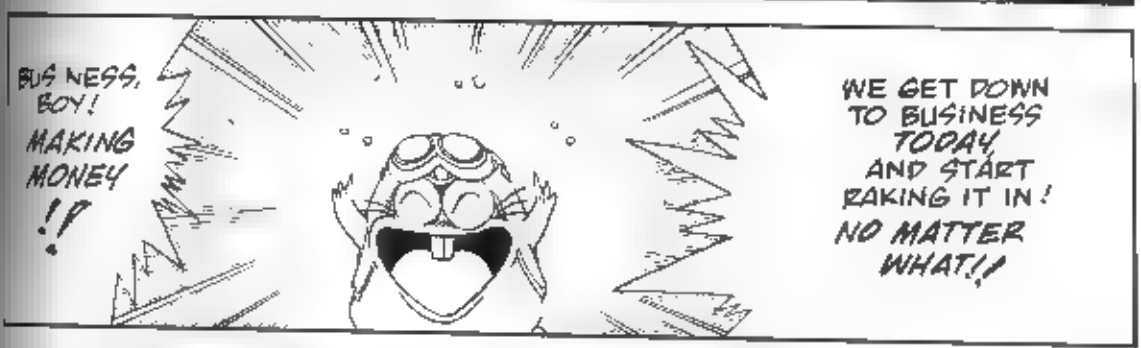
"A WORLD OF THE MONEYMAKERS, FOR THE MONEYMAKERS, MAKING MONEY FOR MONEYMAKERS!!"
"YOU'RE A CUSTOMER. HE'S A CUSTOMER. MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO AROUND! THE CUSTOMER IS GOD!"

AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT! DON'T YOU FORGET IT!!
FWAP FWAP FWAP
BABO.
HOW DARE YOU COME BACK HERE PENNILESS!
YOU GOT A LOT OF NERVE!
AN AKOGI WHO CAN'T MAKE MONEY DOESN'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE!
AREN'T YOU ASHAMED?!
YOU'RE A LOSER!
IDIOT! SCUM!
YOU MONEY LOSER!
TIE HIM UP AND HEAVE HIM INTO THE BAY!!
HELP!
NOOO!!
JEEZ. THEY MADE US BUY ALL THIS JUNK!
MAN WE DON'T HAVE A PENNY LEFT.
HM?

HEY, WATARU! DOESN'T THAT LUMP OF GARBAGE LOOK FAMILIAR?
HUH?
HEY! THAT'S-- THAT'S BABO!!
YOU'RE KIDDING!! THEY WRAPPED YOU UP AND THREW YOU IN JUST BECAUSE YOUR SALES WERE BAD?!
WHAT A BUNCH OF BASTARDS!
AT LEAST THEY DIDN'T TIE ROCKS ONTO ME THIS TIME!
AN AKOGI'S LIFE IS NOT A HAPPY ONE! DAY AFTER DAY, WE BATTLE TO THE DEATH, FIGHTING TO IMPROVE OUR PROFIT MARGINS!!
LET UP JUST A LITTLE, EVEN FOR A DAY, AND YOU'RE CRUSHED LIKE A BUG.
POOR LITTLE DWEEB.
PITY FROM YOU I DON'T NEED!

ANYWAY, WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE.
WAAAH! WAIT A MINUTE !!


IF I LEAVE LIKE THIS, I'LL BE BRANDED A LOSER FOR LIFE !
EEP! S-SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!

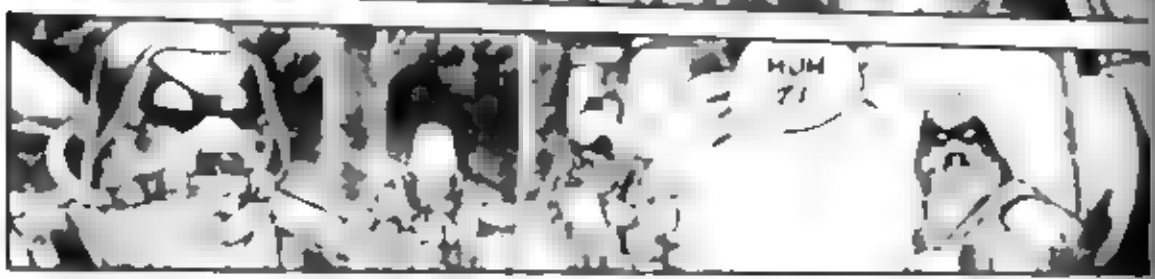

BUS NESS, BOY! MAKING MONEY !!
WE GET DOWN TO BUSINESS TODAY AND START RAKING IT IN! NO MATTER WHAT!!

LET'S GO..
RIGHTO..
DARN IT ALL, WATARU! AT LEAST HEAR ME OUT!

OH, SURE-- SELL WHAT TO WHO, HUH?!
YOU COULDN'T EVEN MAKE A NICKEL OFF OTHER AKOGIS!!
EH HEH HEH

WAIT.. I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING! NOT THE TWO ARMIES...!

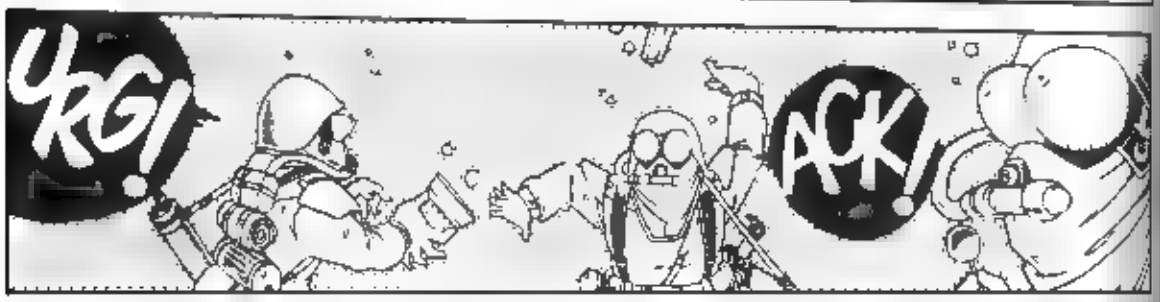
BINGO!!
DAMN IT ALL!

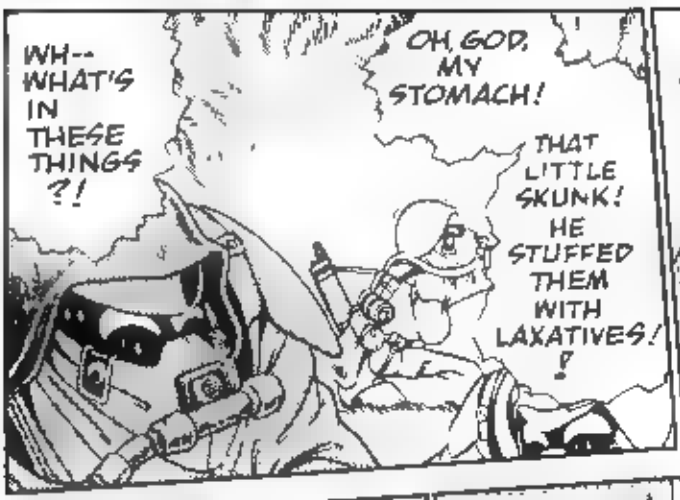

HUH ?!

TASTY & CHEAP !
OCTOPUS DUMPLINGS
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT ?!

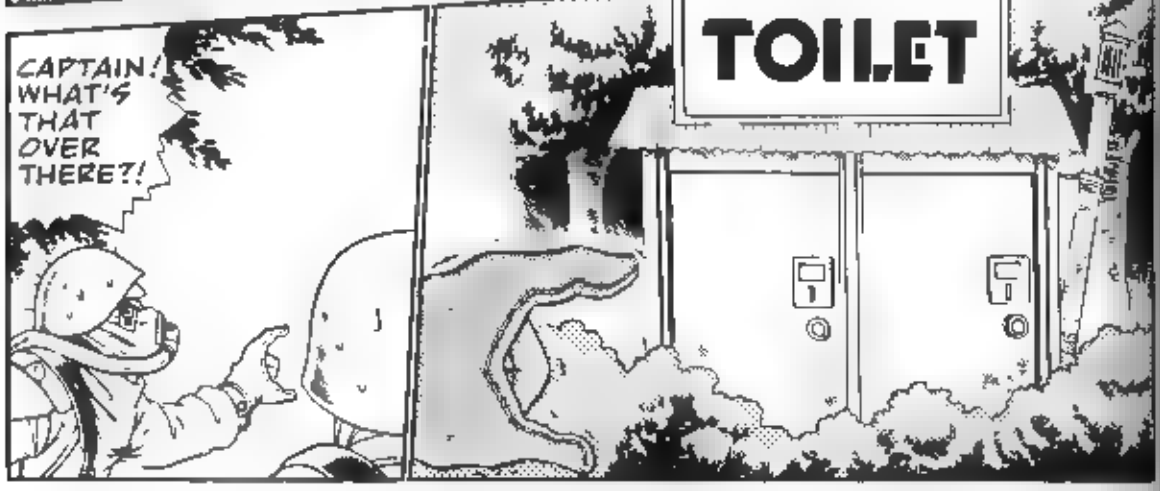
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
STEP RIGHT UP!!
HEY, YOU! THIS AIN'T SOME GODDAMN CARNIVAL! PACK UP AND MOVE ON!
AWW, HAVE A HEART CAPTAIN! CARNIVALS OR WARS, THEY BOTH BRING OUT THE CROWDS, RIGHT?
HEY, WHAT IS THAT STUFF? NOT THOSE WORLD FAMOUS AKOGI OCTO-DUMPLINGS..?
SURE ARE, CAP! 2 50 P.P. THE TEN-PACK!
FOR YOU, I MAKE SUCH A DEAL!
YOU'RE SELLING THEM PRETTY DAMN CHEAP FOR AN AKOGI! ARE THEY ANY GOOD?
GOOD? GOOD? "CHEAP AND YUMMY," THE AKOGI MOTTO!!
GO AHEAD-- TRY A SAMPLE.
WHAT TH--? THOSE ARE WHOLE TENTACLES!
NOT LIKE THOSE CRAPPY EKODA DUMPLINGS, EH?
LEMME SEE..
HEY! THESE THINGS ARE GREAT!! GIMME A WHOLE PACK!
CAPTAIN, SIR! LET US BUY SOME, TOO!

GOD, WE'VE BEEN ON MREs WAYYYY TOO LONG.
UMPLINGS
STILL, WHO BUT AN AKOGI WOULD THINK OF SETTING UP SHOP AT THE FRONT?


UKG!
ACK!

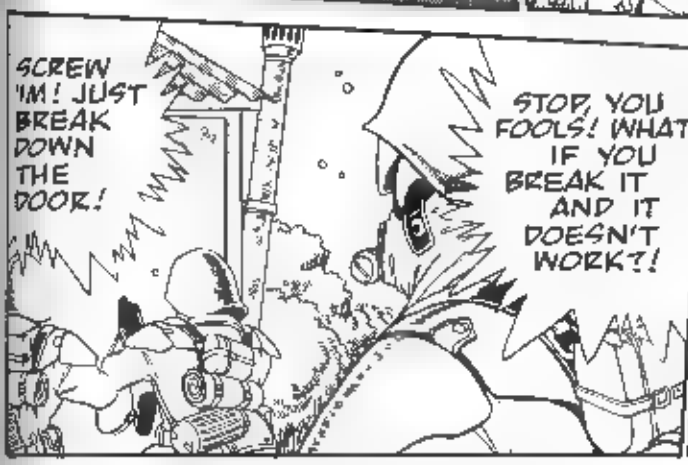

WH-- WHAT'S IN THESE THINGS ?!
OH, GOD, MY STOMACH!
THAT LITTLE SKUNK! HE STUFFED THEM WITH LAXATIVES! !

THAT AKOGI BASTARD! HE'S ALREADY GONE!!
AH AH AHH! I CAN'T HOLD IT ANY LONGER!

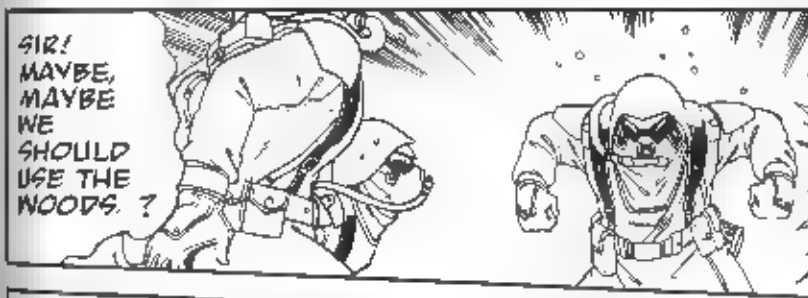

CAPTAIN! WHAT'S THAT OVER THERE?!
TOILET

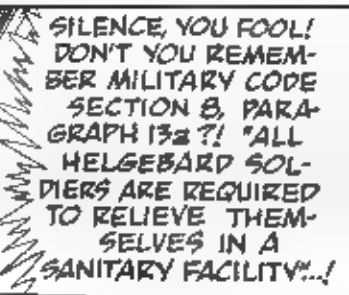
PAY TOILET
500 D.D. Each

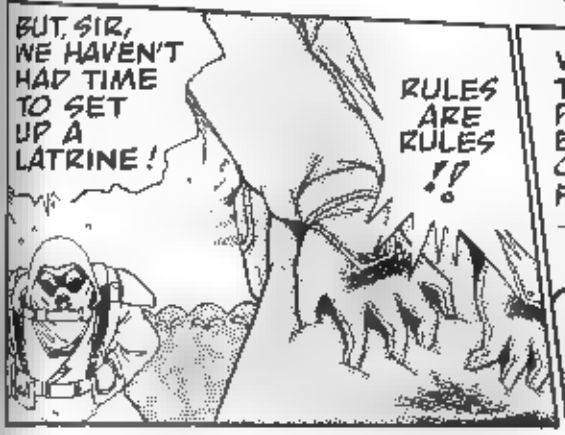
WHAT! YOU HAVE TO PAY TO TAKE A CRAP ?!
500 DD ?! IT'S THAT STINKIN' AKOGI'S WORK!


SCREW 'IM! JUST BREAK DOWN THE DOOR!
STOP, YOU FOOLS! WHAT IF YOU BREAK IT AND IT DOESN'T WORK?!

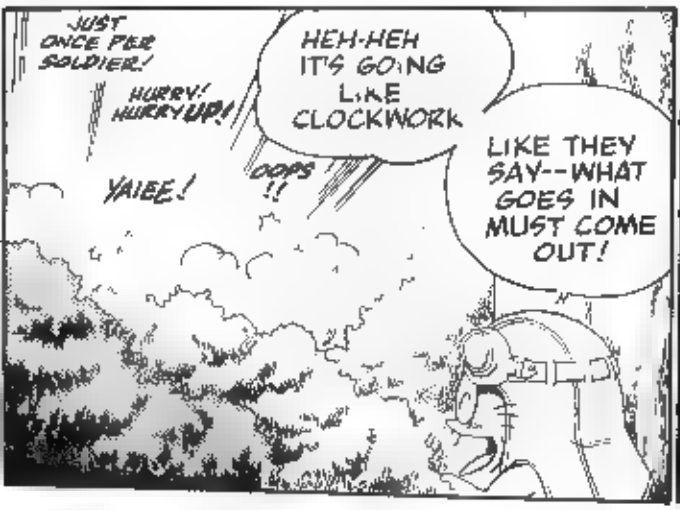
URGI


SIR! MAYBE, MAYBE WE SHOULD USE THE WOODS. ?


SILENCE, YOU FOOL! DON'T YOU REMEMBER MILITARY CODE SECTION 8, PARAGRAPH 13a ?! "ALL HELGEBARD SOLDIERS ARE REQUIRED TO RELIEVE THEMSELVES IN A SANITARY FACILITY"...!

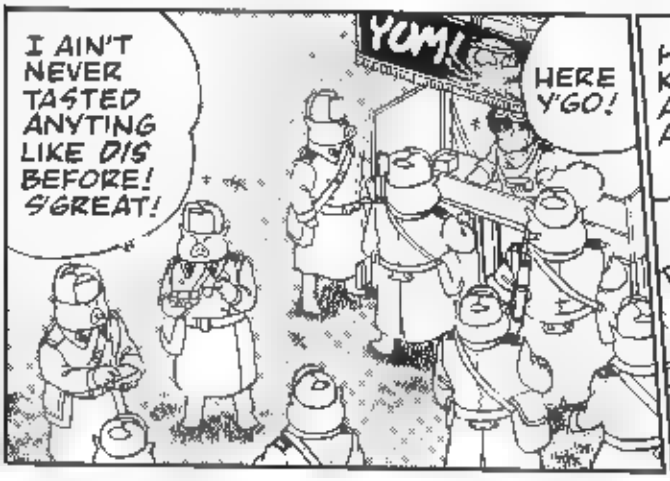

BUT, SIR, WE HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO SET UP A LATRINE!
RULES ARE RULES !!

VERY WELL, THEN! WE'LL PAY THE TOILET EXPENSES OUT OF DIVISION FUNDS
YAHOO!

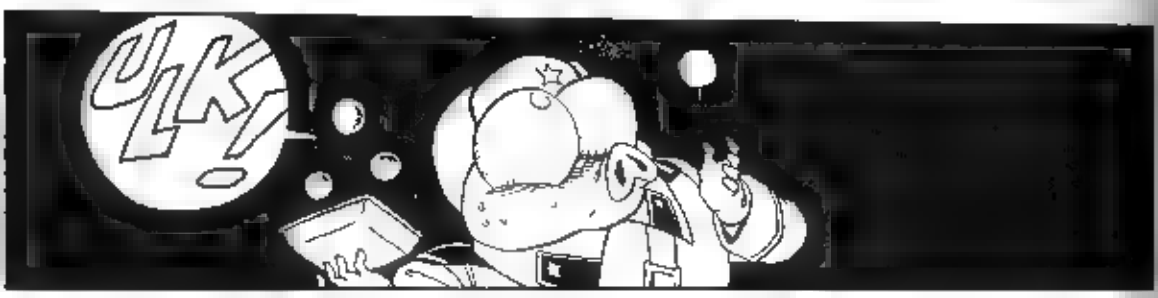

JUST ONCE PER SOLDIER!
HURRY! HURRY UP!
YAIEE!
OOPS!!
HEH-HEH IT'S GOING LIKE CLOCKWORK
LIKE THEY SAY--WHAT GOES IN MUST COME OUT!

NOW I JUST HOPE WATARU'S DOING HIS PART

OINK OINK OINK!
DES TINGS ARE GREAT!!


I AIN'T NEVER TASTED ANYTING LIKE DIS BEFORE! S'GREAT!
YUM!
HERE Y'GO!

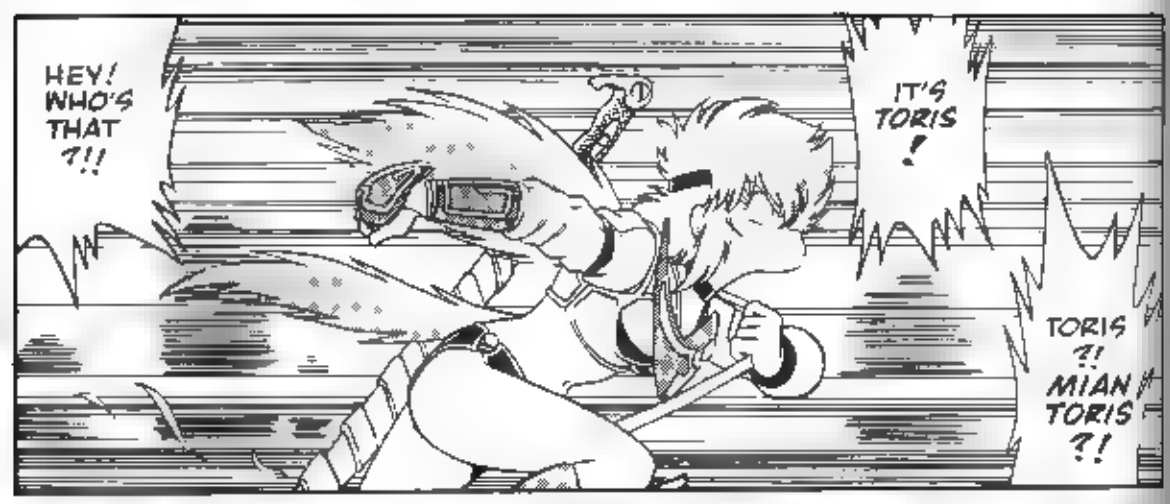
HEY, KID, YOU AIN'T NO AKOGI.
YEAH, YEAH JUST A PART-TIME JOB!


ULK!

NYAHAHA! MAKING MONEY?! DAMN STRAIGHT I'M MAKING MONEY!!
THOSE REPUBLIC PORKERS ARE SUCH GLUTTONS, THE WHOLE DAMN REGIMENT'S GOT THE RUNS!
SHOVELED 'EM IN, EH?! NOW THEY'RE SORRY!
THERE'S ENOUGH HERE TO SAVE MY HONOR AND THEN SOME
DON'T FORGET I HELPED YOU OUT--I WANT MY LOAN BACK!
I KNOW, I KNOW, O' HONORED PARTNER !!
HEY, WHERE'S MIAN?
I THOUGHT SHE WAS WITH YOU NO?
WHERE'D SHE GET TO THIS TIME, THAT BIMBO?!

I SAID I DONT KNOW !!
LOW RANKING OFFICERS LIKE US HAVE NEVER EVEN SET EYES ON HER MAJESTY!
THEN LET ME CHANGE THE QUESTION.
WHAT DOES SHION PLAN TO DO WITH ME ONCE SHE CAPTURES ME?
SHE SHE'LL--
HYAAH!
WHOOD
!!

!!
SIR ?!
WHA--
CHOK
WHSSHH
AAH!


HEY! WHO'S THAT ?!!
IT'S TORIS !
TORIS ?! MIAN TORIS ?!

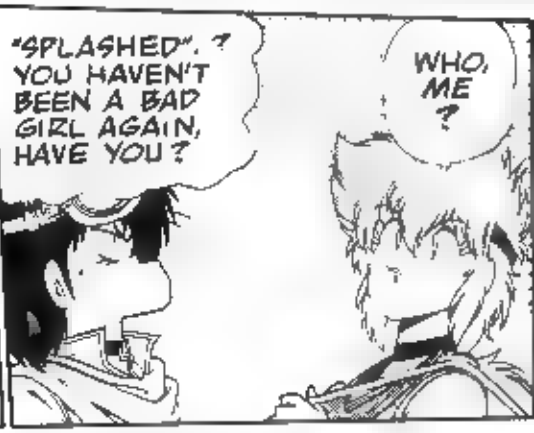
SHOOT !!
DON'T LET HER GET AWAY! FIRE !!
BAM BAM BLAM

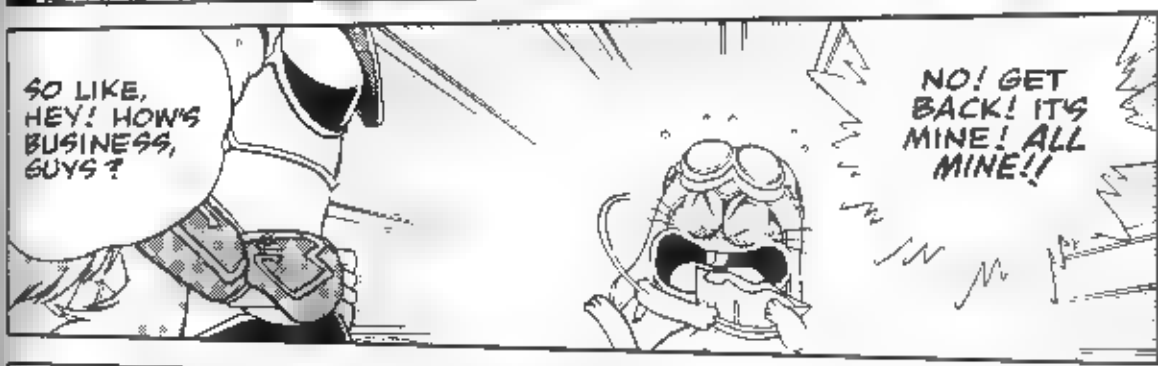
DAMN IT!
AFTER HER!!
SEARCH THE WHOLE AREA!
OUR DIVISION COMMANDER DEAD, HALF OUR SOLDIERS DOWN WITH THE RUNS.
WHY DID I GET OUT OF BED THIS MORNING ?!

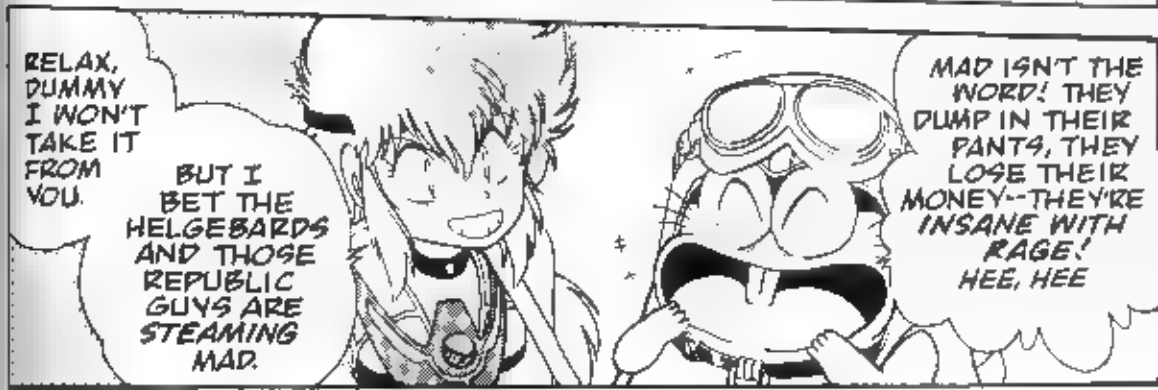
HI, BOYS !!

MIAN!
WHERE DID YOU GET TO ?!
OH, OUT AND ABOUT

GEE. YOU'RE BLEEDING.
BLEEDING? NAW, I JUST GOT SPLASHED.


"SPLASHED"...? YOU HAVEN'T BEEN A BAD GIRL AGAIN, HAVE YOU?
WHO, ME ?

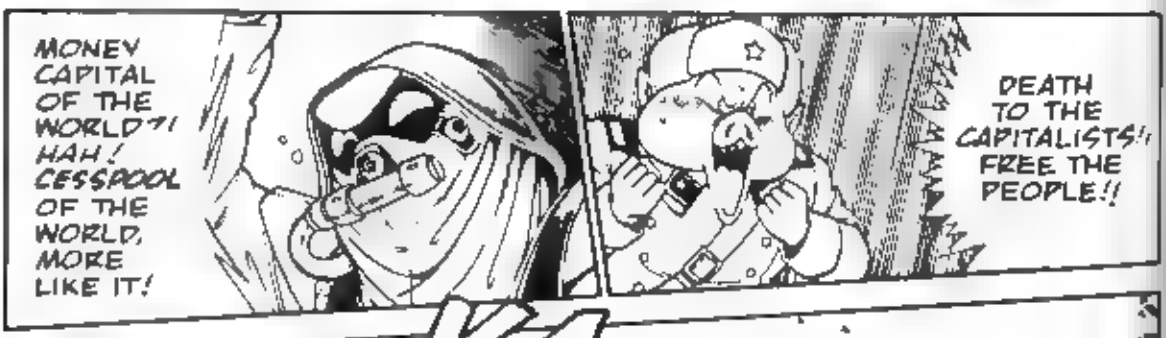

SO LIKE, HEY! HOW'S BUSINESS, GUYS?
NO! GET BACK! IT'S MINE! ALL MINE!!

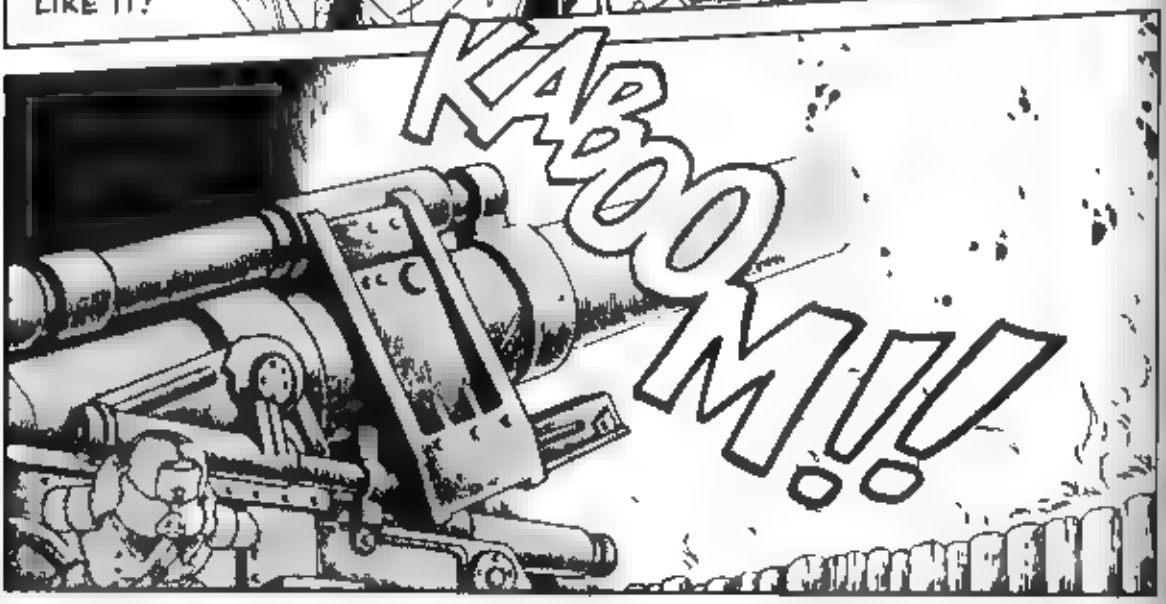

RELAX, DUMMY I WON'T TAKE IT FROM YOU.
BUT I BET THE HELGEBARDS AND THOSE REPUBLIC GUYS ARE STEAMING MAD.
MAD ISN'T THE WORD! THEY DUMP IN THEIR PANTS, THEY LOSE THEIR MONEY--THEY'RE INSANE WITH RAGE! HEE, HEE

!!
Y'KNOW, THEY MIGHT EVEN--
ATTACK AKOGIVILLE IN REVENGE!
YOU GOT IT!
DON'T BE SO CALLOUS!!
WHOK
THIS IS TERRIBLE! TERRIBLE!!
JEEZ-- DON'T PITCH A FIT
OH, NO! ROCKETS!
KWHOOOSSHH
KWHOOOOSSHH
WHO'S GOING TO MISS THAT SCABBY LITTLE TOWN?
I'M GONNA MISS IT!
HEY, WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
INTEREST RATES...?

KWRAMM
YAAAH!

KWHOOSH
KWHOOSH KWHOOSH


MONEY CAPITAL OF THE WORLD?! HAH! CESSPOOL OF THE WORLD, MORE LIKE IT!
DEATH TO THE CAPITALISTS!! FREE THE PEOPLE!!


KABOOM!!!

SUCH WAS THE DECLINE AND FALL OF THE AKOGI EMPIRE

AAAGG...

WH-WH-WHAT?

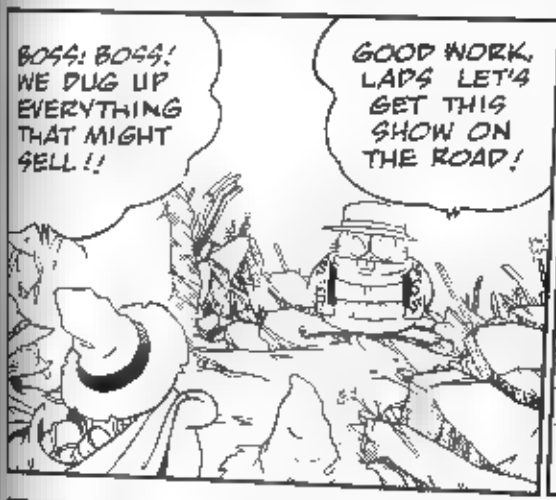
CEASE FIRE!!

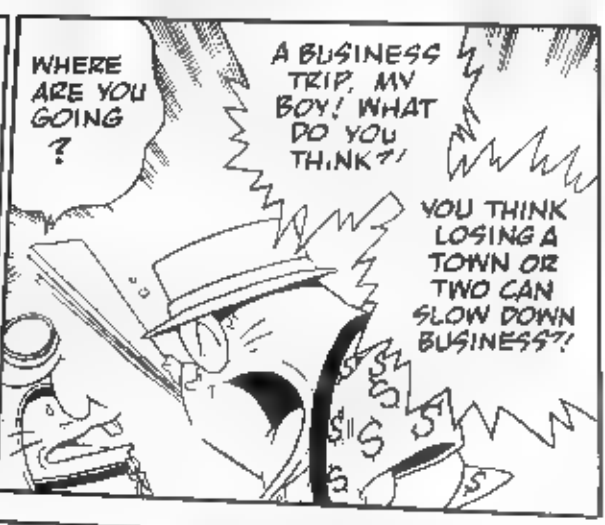
BEHOLD! EVIL PERISHES! GOOD PREVAILS!

OH, MAAN.

HEY, BOSS! YOU SURVIVED, HUH?!
WHO'S THAT? BABO, IS THAT YOU?
BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!
LOOK AT HOW MUCH I MADE!
WHAT ARE YOU GRINNING FOR, YOU BEAN BRAIN?!
FWAK
AKOGIVILLE'S BEEN BLOWN TO BITS!
S-SORRY, BOSS.
BEEN MAKING MONEY, HAVE YOU? HOW MUCH?
!!
YOU MADE THIS MUCH IN ONE DAY?!
SURE DID, BOSS! NOT A BAD TAKE, HUH?!
NYAHAHAHA! I KNEW YOU HAD IT IN YOU, MY BOY! I NEVER MISS A CALL!!
ALL'S FORGIVEN, LAD! GOOD WORK!!
AW IT WAS NOTHING.

STILL, THE TOWN'S A BIT OF A MESS .
YEAH, YEAH. BUT AT LEAST NO ONE GOT HURT
THEY DON'T EVEN DIE WHEN YOU KILL THEM.


BOSS! BOSS! WE DUG UP EVERYTHING THAT MIGHT SELL!!
GOOD WORK, LADS LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!


WHERE ARE YOU GOING ?
A BUSINESS TRIP, MY BOY! WHAT DO YOU THINK?!
YOU THINK LOSING A TOWN OR TWO CAN SLOW DOWN BUSINESS?!

READY, THEN, ALL?! LET'S GO!!
YO!!

BOY, IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I HIT THE SALES TRAIL
THEY SAY BUSINESS IS PICKING UP BACK EAST!
BUT I DON'T THINK THEY BUY TIGERS T-SHIRTS OUT THERE.
HEY, WE MAKE THEM BUY THEM, SEE?

IT'S NOT MY FAULT... WHATEVER TROUBLE THEY CAUSE WHILE MAKING MONEY, IT'S NOT MY FAULT
THEY'RE MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE IMPERIAL ARMY...
AKOGI BUSINESSMEN NEVER SAY DIE!!

Mian's Special Guy

THREE CHEESEBURGERS TO GO, SIR!

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!

THANK YOU! COME AGAIN!

THAT'S HIM--NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.

HUH... LOOKS LIKE A REAL IDIOT.

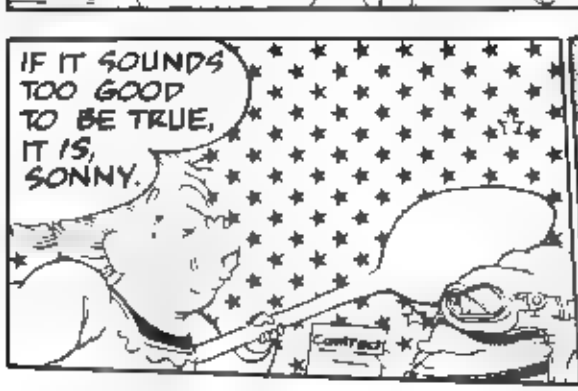
WELL, LET'S GET IT OVER WITH.

?
WRAK
ORNGK!
JEEZ, NATARU WHAT THE HELL'S TAKING YOU SO LONG?!

CAN'T HE EVEN HANDLE BUYING A FEW HAMBURGERS ?
BABO! GO SEE WHAT HE'S UP TO, OKAY?

BABO!
KEEP YER SHORTS ON! I'M RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A DEAL, HERE!

SO, LIKE I WAS SAYING, GRANDMA--WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WHEN YOU GET OLD, EH? ASK YOUR WORTHLESS KIDS FOR HELP?
THE NUMBERS SAY IT ALL.
GOLD! THAT'S THE TICKET! LOVELY GOLD NEVER DROPS IN VALUE...BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU GOT DOUBLE, TRIPLE YOUR INVESTMENT.
IT'S A LOT BETTER THAN GIVING YOUR CASH TO A BANK, LET ME TELL YOU!
JUST SIGN HERE, IT'S YOURS!


IF IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT IS, SONNY.

ALL MY DOUGH'S IN IBM, ANYWAY!
HEE HEE HEE
HMPH-- THE LITTLE OLD LADY FROM HELL!

BAD BABO! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE INTO BUNCO, TOO.
HECK, ALL IT TAKES IS A BIG MOUTH. I'M HOOKED!
EEEE

SHREEEEE

WATARU..?!
SHREEOOWW
WHERE'S HE THINK HE'S GOING? THERE'S A BURGER JOINT JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
.....
SHION, YOU TRICKSTER! WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?!
VRRNN VRRNN VRRNN

YA THINK YOU'RE DOING, YOU JERKS!
GOD DAMMIT! WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO TO ME! GET YOUR MITTS

SO GLAD YOU COULD COME NORMALLY I WOULD HAVE ENTERTAINED YOU IN MY PALACE, BUT THESE ARE TROUBLED TIMES.

SO, PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES FOR THESE CRAMPED AND UNWORTHY SURROUNDINGS

I'M QUITE PLEASED WE COULD MEET AGAIN, WATARU. THAT *WAS* YOUR NAME, YES?

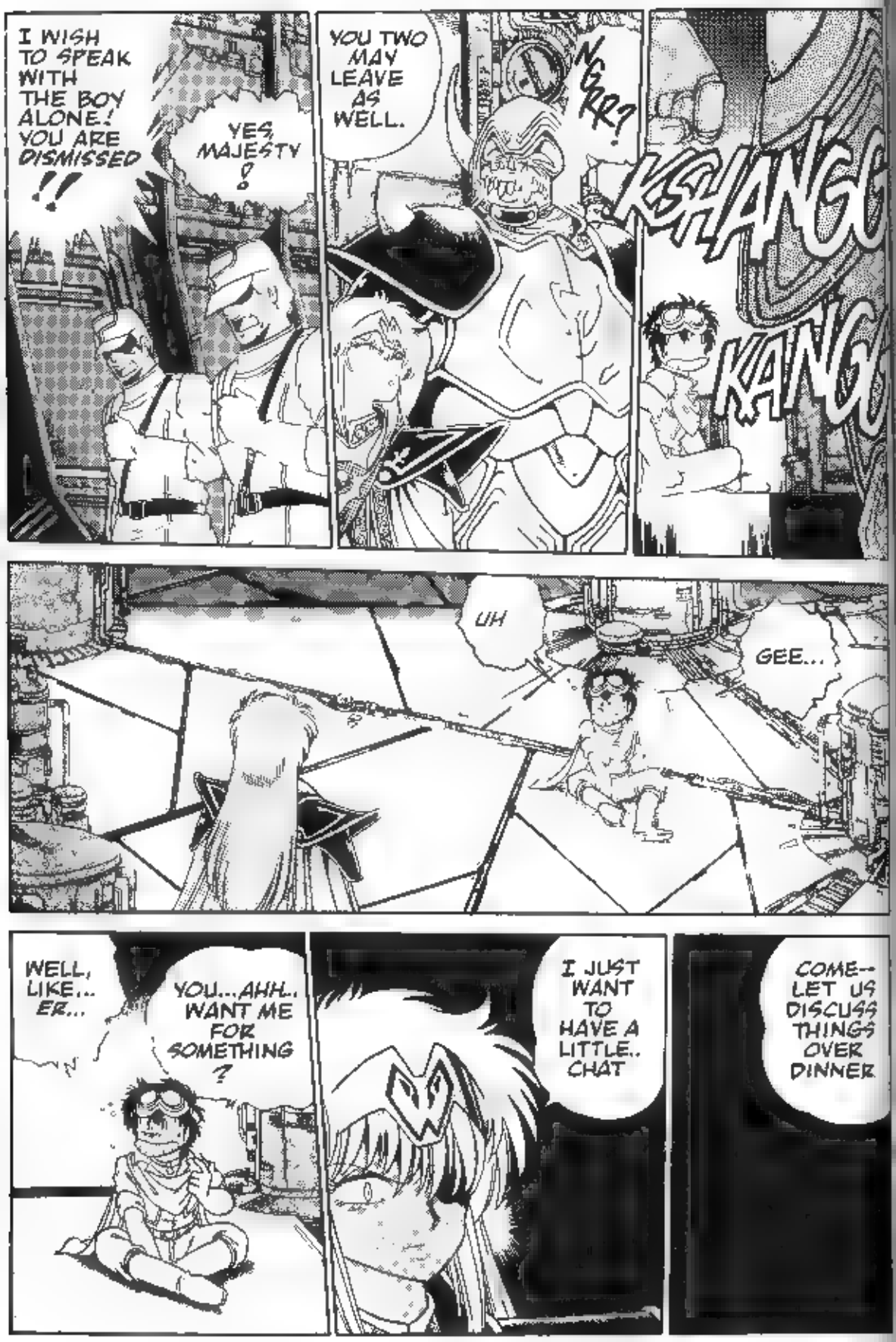
YOU SEEM TO BE IN EXCELLENT HEALTH, MM?

YOU... YOU'RE THE GIRL WHO WAS FIGHTING WITH *MIAN* THAT TIME

GODDAMMIT! WHO THE HELL *ARE* YOU?!

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, DRAGGING ME HERE?!

I KNOW!! YOU'RE TRYING TO DECOY MIAN INTO COMING HERE TO SAVE ME!
WHAT A ROTTEN TRICK!!
INSOLENT CUR! HOLD YOUR TONGUE!
AW, GET STUFFED, CEMENT HEAD!
FOOL! DON'T YOU REALIZE WHO YOU'RE SPEAKING TO?
THIS IS HER EXALTED MAJESTY, PRINCESS SHION, RULER OF THE GREAT HELGEBARD EMPIRE!
HUH ?
RELEASE THE BOY AND YOU MAY LEAVE.
BUT, YOUR HIGHNESS--


I WISH TO SPEAK WITH THE BOY ALONE! YOU ARE DISMISSED !!
YES, MAJESTY !
YOU TWO MAY LEAVE AS WELL.
NGRR?
KSHANGG
KANGG
UH
GEE...
WELL, LIKE... ER...
YOU...AHH.. WANT ME FOR SOMETHING ?
I JUST WANT TO HAVE A LITTLE.. CHAT
COME-- LET US DISCUSS THINGS OVER DINNER

HELP YOURSELF..
LET US CELEBRATE OUR REUNION-- PLEASE, DON'T HOLD BACK.
YOU SAID IT, BABE! COULDN'T HOLD ME BACK IF YOU TRIED!
I WAS SO HUNGRY MY BIG GUTS WERE EATING MY LITTLE GUTS!
YAHOO!! LOOKIT ALL THE GRUB!!
YUMM! MAN, THIS STUFF'S GREAT! HEY, DO YOU EMPRESSES GET TO CHOW DOWN LIKE THIS EVERY DAY?!
BABO OUGHTTA BE HERE!
MNCH
GLUP
SCARF
BELCH
MNGH

UH EXCUSE ME, BUT .CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
WHAT IS IT ?
WHAT ARE YOU ALWAYS CHASING MIAN FOR?
MNG GULP
WHAT IS IT BETWEEN YOU GUYS, ANYWAY?
SLURPPP
EVEN THAT FIGHT YOU HAD THAT WASN'T ANY COINCIDENCE.
HMM HOW SHALL I PUT IT?
MIAN AND I YOU COULD SAY THAT WE'RE ONE BODY, ONE MIND.
HUH ?
WHAZZAT ?
ONE BODY, ONE MIND. AND AT THE SAME TIME, IRRECON-CILABLE ENEMIES.
I DON'T GET IT.
NEVER COULD FIGURE ALL THAT HIGHFALUTIN' MUMBO-JUMBO.

WATARU.
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO SHOW ME THROUGH ACTION.

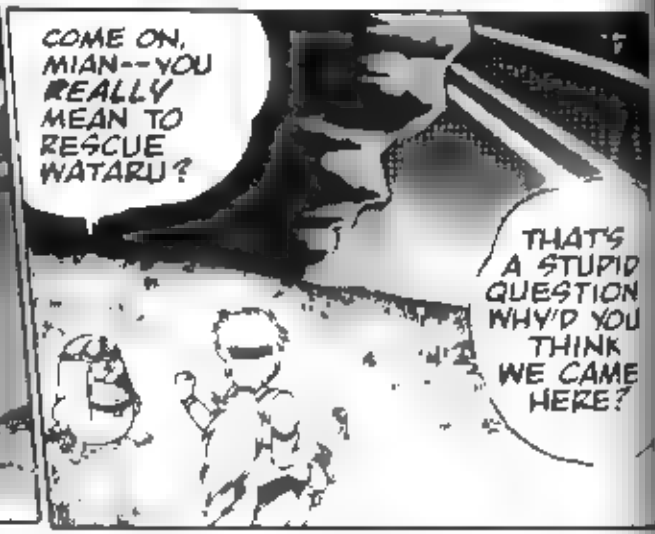
EH ?

DEPENDING ON YOUR ANSWER, YOU COULD EITHER BECOME EMPEROR-- NOT TO MENTION MY HUSBAND .

OR, ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU COULD PUT ON A LITTLE WEIGHT--IN IMPERIAL LEAD BULLETS.
"ACTION"..? WHADDAYA MEAN ?

KILL MIAN FOR ME!

NOW I SEE. NEVER GUESSED THERE WAS A FRONT-LINE BASE SO NEAR


COME ON, MIAN--YOU REALLY MEAN TO RESCUE WATARU?
THAT'S A STUPID QUESTION WHY'D YOU THINK WE CAME HERE?

BUT IF WE BLOW A WHOLE BUSINESS DAY JUST GETTING WATARU BACK, I'M GONNA TAKE SOME SERIOUS LOSSES.
REALLY, THAT JERK'S NOT EVEN A DECENT TAX LOSS.
BEEP BEEP

GOOD LORD! AND YOU CALL YOURSELVES PARTNERS?!
DAMN STRAIGHT! I'VE GOT A BIG LIFE INSURANCE POLICY ON HIM!

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK--WATARU'S VERY IMPORTANT TO ME!
OH, I GEE WHEN DID YOU TWO, UHH, "GET TOGETHER"?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN, IDIOT!

KEEP THAT BIG YAP OF YOURS SHUT, AND FOLLOW ME!
AHA! YOU GUYS'VE BEEN FOOLIN' ME! NO MORE!
KRAK
NOW SHUT UP AND COME ON! HURRY!
I CAN'T HANDLE HER..
SKRASSHHH
THAT'S THE STUPIDEST THING I EVER HEARD! YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT!!
YOU REFUSE..?
OF COURSE I DO!
ME EMPEROR? WHAT A CROCK!

IN THAT CASE, CONTINUE YOUR TRAVELS... WITH YOUR DEAR MIAN.
DO THAT, WATARU-- AND IN TIME, YOU WILL COME TO AGREE WITH ME
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!
DO YOU KNOW WHERE SHE'S GOING?!
I DO INDEED.
AND I KNOW WHAT SHE'S GOING TO DO THERE
HUH ?
EVEN IF I TRIED TO EXPLAIN, I DOUBT YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND
GEE, SO SORRY I WAS BORN! I KNOW, I'M JUST AN IDIOT
BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS MUCH, YOUNG MAN--
--IF SHE IS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, THEN YOU, ME, EVEN THE EMPIRE .
NO, MORE THAN JUST THE EMPIRE! THIS ENTIRE PLANET WILL FACE CERTAIN AND UTTER DESTRUCTION!

DESTRUCTION?
MIAN'S GOING TO DESTROY THE WORLD?

BWAHAHAHAHAHAHAH!!

WHAT DO YOU FIND SO AMUSING?

OH, COME ON! DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. SURE, MIAN'S STRONG, BUT SHE'S JUST HUMAN.
SINCE WHEN CAN WAVING A SWORD AROUND BLOW UP A WHOLE PLANET?!

WELL, I CAN HARDLY COMMAND YOU TO BELIEVE ME

AND NEITHER HAVE I ANY INTENTION OF FORCING YOU TO KILL MIAN.

SO CONTINUE YOUR TRAVELS WITH THE GIRL AND ONCE YOU LEARN THE PURPOSE OF YOUR JOURNEY..

YOU CAN DECIDE FOR YOURSELF TO PUT HER TO DEATH !!
THINK ABOUT IT, MM?
UH.
YEAH, SURE.
WHY THE HELL ARE YOU ASKING ME, ANYWAY ?!
WHY DON'T YOU DO IT YOURSELF ?!

YOU'RE THE DAMNED *EMPRESS*, AREN'T YOU?

HELL, YOU'VE GOT A WHOLE *ARMY* AND YOU'RE JUST AS STRONG AS SHE IS! I SAW YOU FIGHT!

YES, YOU ARE RIGHT MIAN AND I ARE EQUALLY STRONG *EXACT* EQUALS, WATARU

WE CANNOT BE DEFEATED, NEITHER CAN WE DEFEAT THAT IS WHY WE NEED THE STRENGTH OF OTHERS.

AS FOR THAT ARMY OF MINE. GIVEN THEIR EQUIPMENT, I DOUBT THEY COULD SO MUCH AS SCRATCH HER!

BUT *YOU*! YOU, WATARU, CAN DEFEAT HER!

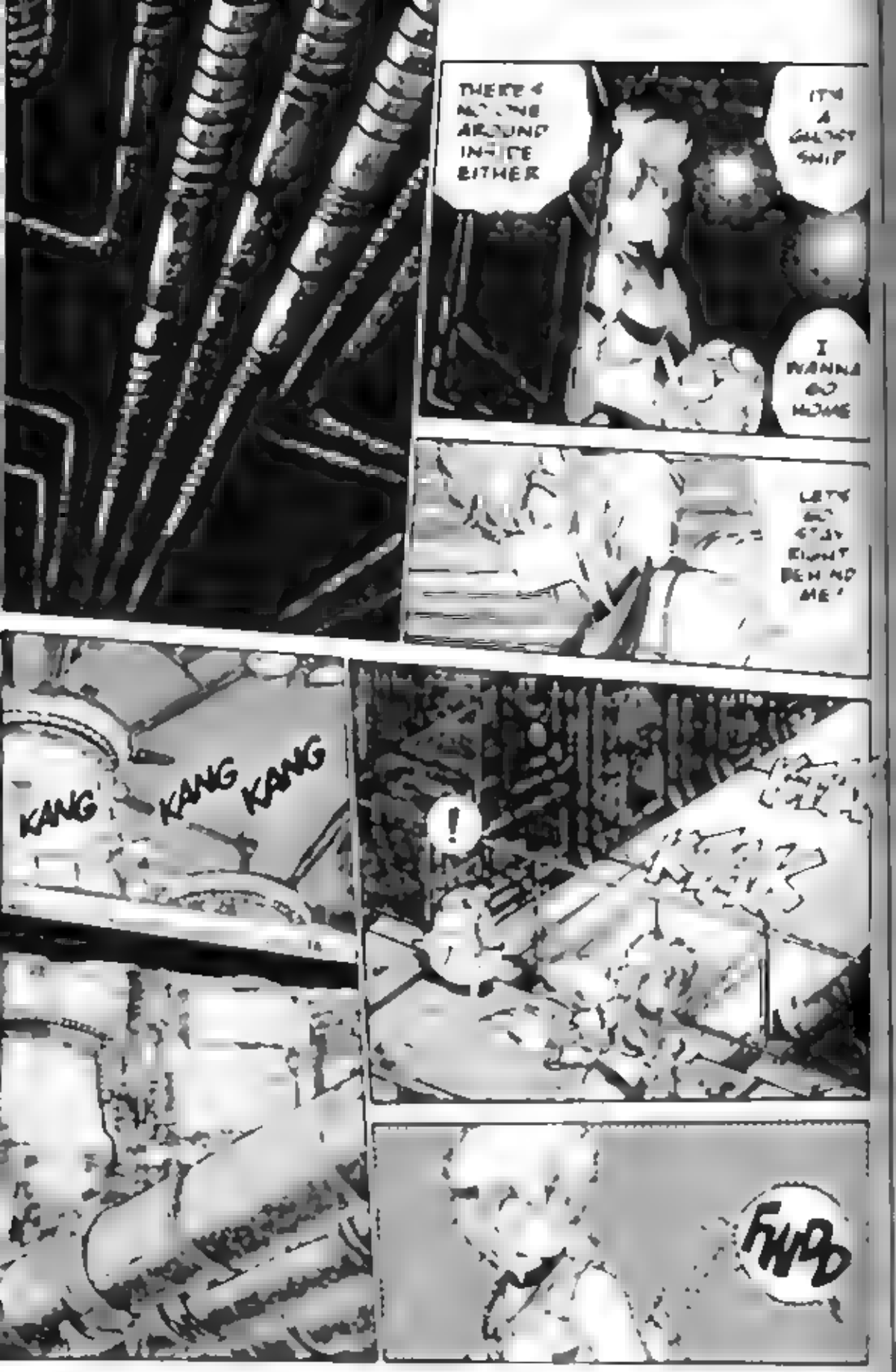
OH, *RIGHT*! HOW THE HELL CAN I DO THAT?! SOMEONE TOO TOUGH FOR YOU AND YOUR ARMY BOTH?!

WHAT'S THIS THING ?
DON'T ASK JUST USE IT
ALL YOU DO IS SUBSTITUTE IT FOR THE CRYSTAL ON MIAN'S BREASTPLATE.
THE CRYSTAL ON HER BREASTPLATE!?
YOU MEAN THAT THING ?
DO THAT, AND IT WILL ALL BE OVER
I DON'T NEED THIS PIECE OF JUNK!
'CAUSE I'M NOT GOING TO DO IT, SEE ?!
JUST THINK OF IT AS A PRESENT, WATARU
IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, THROW IT AWAY
AW, HELL . I'M NOT USING IT, UNDERSTAND ?
BUT IT'S SORTA PRETTY I BET BABO CAN MAKE SOME MONEY OFF IT.

AS YOU WISH. AND NOW, WE SHOULD GET READY. MIAN WILL BE HERE FOR YOU ANY MINUTE
MIAN? COME FOR ME? NO WAY--NOT HER!
AH, BUT SHE WILL. YOU'RE VERY IMPORTANT TO HER, WATARU.
JEEZ! QUIT PICKING ON ME, WOULD YA?!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT BETWEEN US.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
YOU ARE THE CHOSEN MAN!
MIAN'S TRUE JOURNEY BEGAN THE MOMENT SHE FOUND YOU!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT LITTLE FAT THING.
BUT MIAN NEEDS YOU. YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVING HER GOAL!
ME...?

THE DEFENSES ARE INCREDIBLY LIGHT.
WE'RE GOING TO SLIP RIGHT IN.
SO IT'S PROBABLY A TRAP.
OF COURSE IT IS! I KNOW THAT MUCH!
THEY'VE TAKEN WATARU HOSTAGE. SOMETHING'S WAITING FOR ME... BUT WHAT?

I'M NOT


THERE'S NO ONE AROUND IN HERE EITHER
IT'S A GALAXY SHIP
I WANNA GO HOME
LET'S GO STAY RIGHT BEHIND ME!
KANG
KANG
KANG
!
FWOB

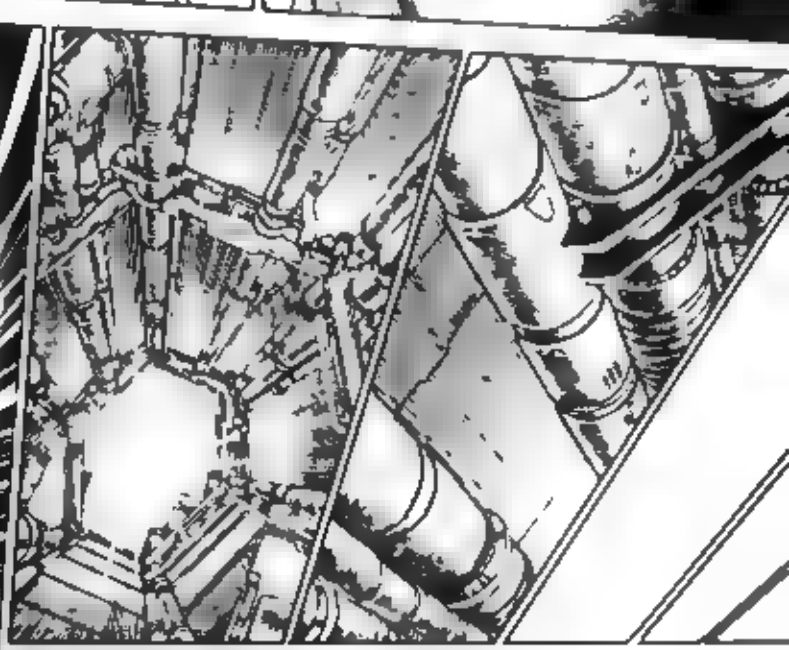
HEY! GET BACK HERE, YOU LITTLE CREEP!
I'LL DO THIS MY WAY, THANK YOU! NO HARD FEELINGS, OKAY?!
KTAK
KTAK

YA HA HEE HEE HEE!
KTAK
KTAK

SPINELESS LITTLE MERCENARY GOOD-FOR-NOTHING!!
WELL, I DIDN'T EXPECT MUCH ANYWAY.

THAT'S WATARU'S SCENT!

HE'S THIS WAY!



SHION !!

YOU DIDN'T SEND MANY

MIAN !

WHAT'D YOU COME HERE FOR, YOU DIOT?!
DON'T YOU KNOW A TRAP WHEN YOU SEE ONE?!
NATARU..!
WELL, IF YOU HADN'T BEEN SUCH A CARELESS CORK-BRAIN IN THE FIRST PLACE, THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED!
AH, SHUT YER FACE! I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT!!
YOU'RE SUCH A PAIN--
MIAN!! BEHIND YOU!!

I KNOW I KNOW!
KANGG
SKRAK

VERY WELL-- LET'S BEGIN
HUH ?
THUK
GAAAA!
WATARU!

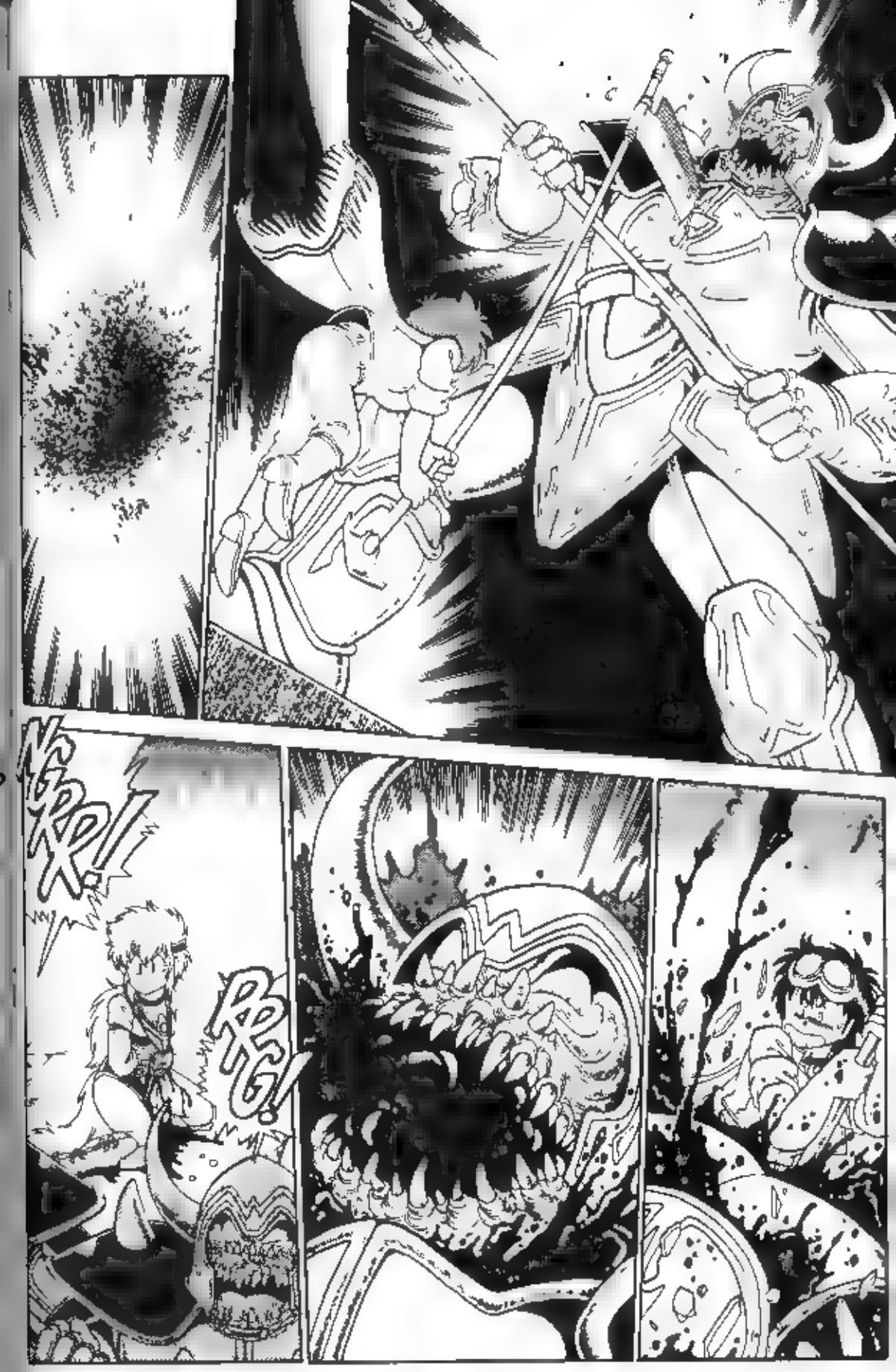
GLOK
AAH!

Mian's Secret

FWHD
WHUMM
YEAR!

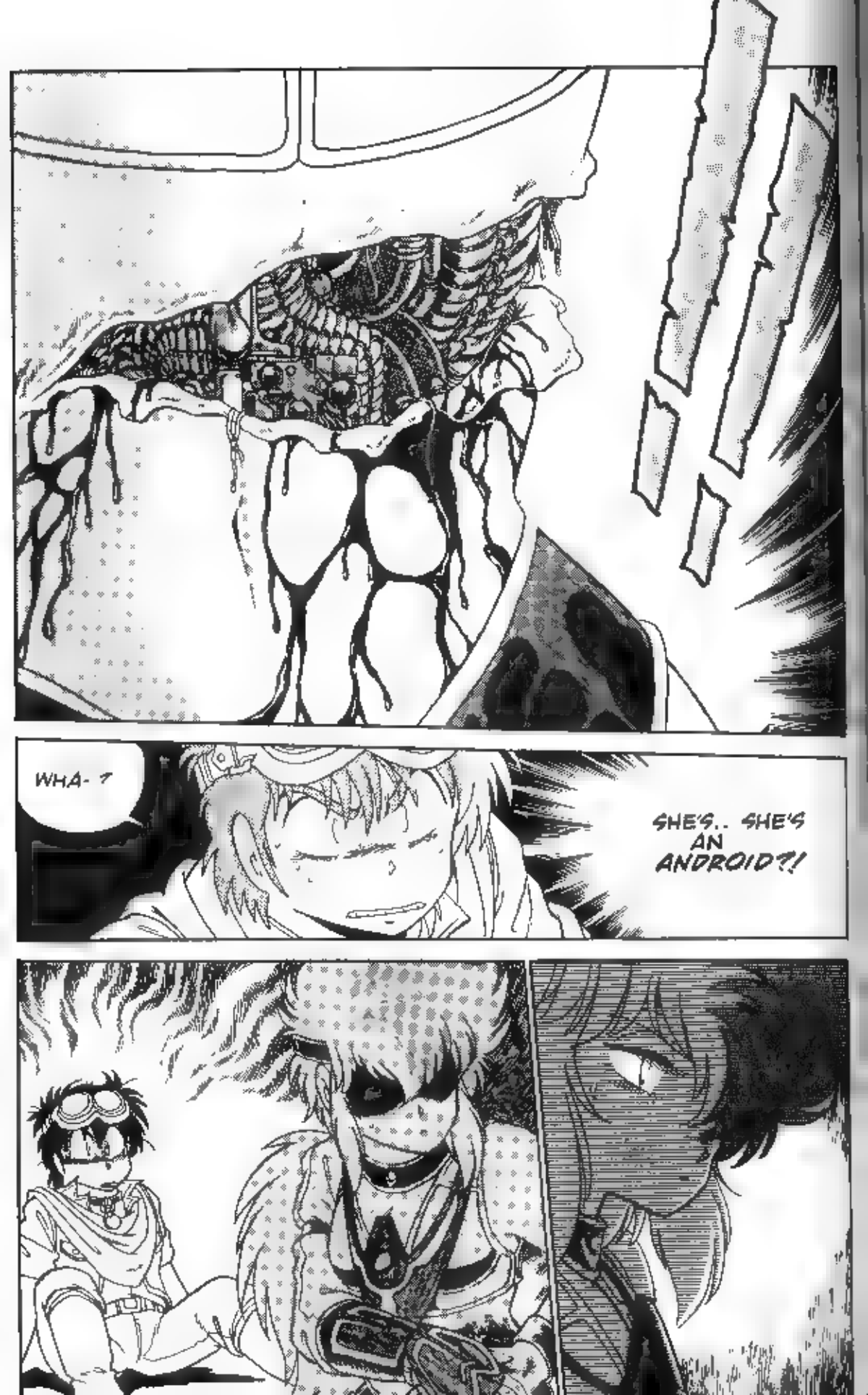
MIAN
GAHA!
FOR GOD'S SAKE STOP THIS!! SHE'S GONNA DIE
WE'VE WON DAMMIT MAKE THEM STOP

IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO KILL HER-- JUST YOU WATCH
YOU LYING BITCH! SHE'S CUT WIDE OPEN!
CHOMP!
YEE-OW!
KRAK
URK!
!?

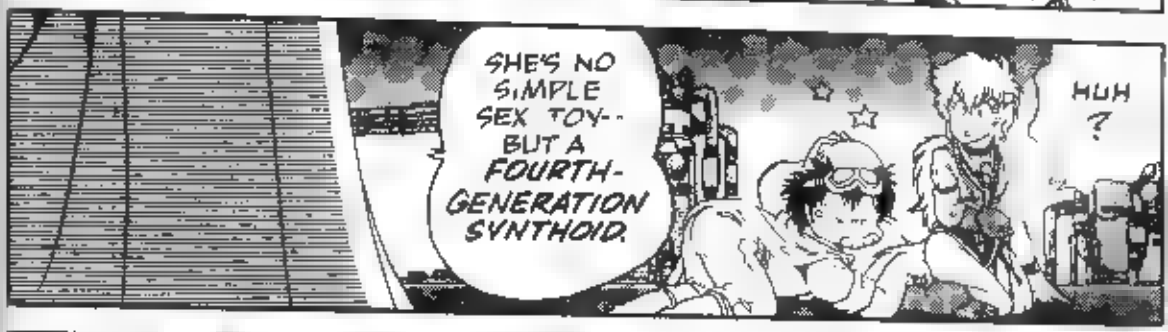

KRI!
RG!

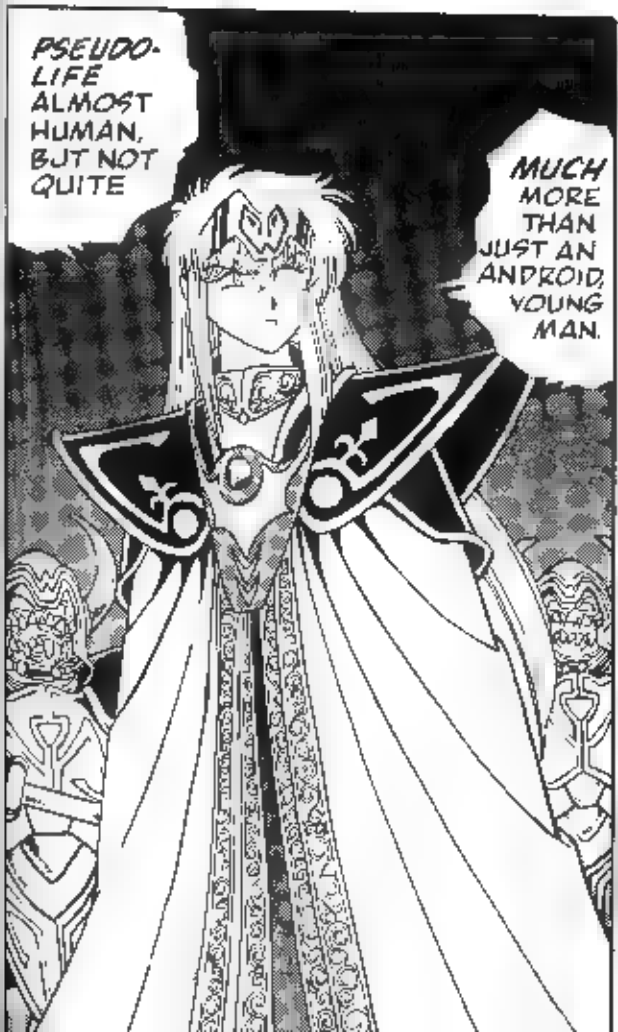
THAT DAMN KID HE'LL PAY FOR THAT
YOUR HIGHNESS, TAKE COVER!
HOLD YOUR FIRE. LEAVE MIAI BE
??
YOW! YAHH! YAIEE!
MIAN! ARE YOU--

YOU IDIOT! STAY AWAY FROM ME!
JUST GET OUT OF HERE!
THIS IS THE THANKS I GET FOR SAVING YOUR LIFE?!
GO SAVE SOMEONE ELSE!
YOU'RE MORE DANGEROUS THAN THIS LITTLE SCRATCH!
JUST FOR ONCE, WILL YOU STOP ACTING SO DAMNED TOUGH?!
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT, YOU'RE GONNA DIE!!
STOP! GET AWAY FROM ME!
DON'T LOOK!
!!

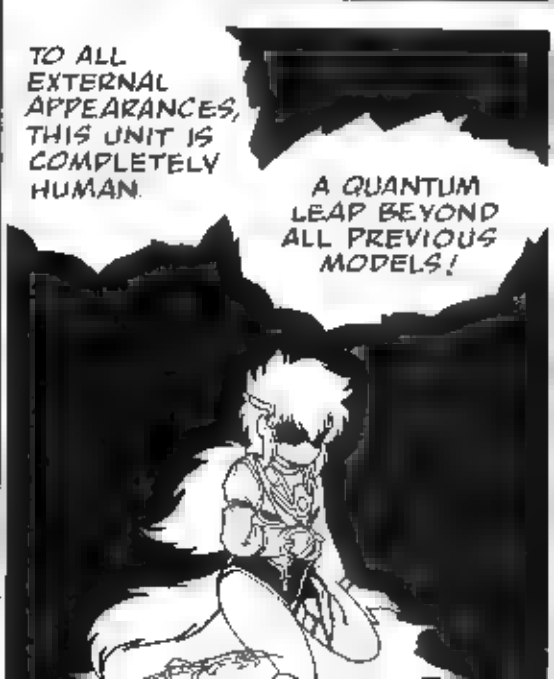

WHA-?
SHE'S.. SHE'S AN ANDROID?!

MIAN I DIDN'T KNOW
YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE SEX ANDR--
KWOK


SHE'S NO SIMPLE SEX TOY-- BUT A FOURTH-GENERATION SYNTHOID.
HUH ?


PSEUDO-LIFE ALMOST HUMAN, BUT NOT QUITE
MUCH MORE THAN JUST AN ANDROID, YOUNG MAN.

A "SYNTHOID"


TO ALL EXTERNAL APPEARANCES, THIS UNIT IS COMPLETELY HUMAN.
A QUANTUM LEAP BEYOND ALL PREVIOUS MODELS!

PERHAPS NOW YOU'LL BE MORE INCLINED TO LISTEN TO ME WATARU?
YOU'VE BEEN TRAVELLING AROUND WITH A MECHANICAL WOMAN!
MIAN IS IT TRUE?
IS IT REALLY TRUE THAT YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE, THOSE SYNTHOID THINGS?
YES
IS IT REALLY TRULY TRUE??
FOR CHRIST'S SAKE!! I SAID YES, DIDN'T I?!!
EEP! S-SORRY!
SHION!
HOW DARE YOU CALL ME "PSEUDO-LIFE"?!
YOU OUGHT TO KNOW BET--

?!
HEY
WHAT THE
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!
WE'RE ESCAPING
THE

ENOUGH WITH THE MACHO CRAP-- PUT ME DOWN!! I CAN RUN BY MYSELF!
YOU MUST BE NUTS--YOU'RE SPLIT WIDE OPEN!! YOU CAN'T RUN!!
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME, KIDDO! THIS IS NOTHING!
I'M DIFFERENT FROM YOU DELICATE LITTLE SLUGS!
DAMMIT-- WHEN I SAY LET GO, LET GO!!
FWAP
HEY HEY! CUT IT OUT!
FWAP
VREEE
VREEE
VREEE
OF COURSE IT'S A REAL INTRUDER ALERT, YOU FOOLS! NOW FIND THEM!!

TAKE YOUR TIME, GENTLEMEN
PUT THE PRESSURE ON SLOWLY.
YES, MAAM!
LET'S SEE HOW YOU HOLD UP WHEN THE HEAT IS ON, WATARU
JUST HOW LONG WILL YOUR LOYALTY LAST .?
HEY YOU! DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING OR WHAT?
WELL, ER I FIGURED IF WE JUST KEEP GOING DOWN, THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY OUT!
LORD SAVE ME FROM MORONS!
SHUT YOUR TRAP! JUST BLEED QUIETLY, WHY DON'T YA?!
I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE BLEEDING, REMEMBER?
JEEZ-- HOW MUCH DO YOU WEIGH, ANYHOW?!

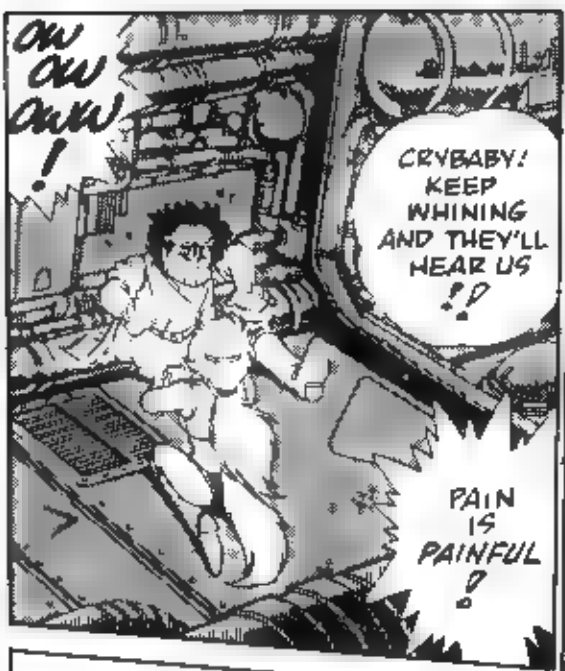
OUT IN THE BACK FORTY OLD SHEP BARKS...
KIND FARMER JOHN THEN DIGS THERE FOR A LARK..
FINDS HIM A TREASURE CHEST, SACKS FULL O'GOLD..
AH WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SONG!
IF ONLY I HAD AN "OLD SHEP" OF MY OWN!
NOTHING BUT GUNS AND ARMOR HERE NOT A THING WORTH RIPPING OFF
AND THESE DAMNFOOL SIRENS ARE ENOUGH TO GIVE A MAN A HEADACHE
THERE HE IS! THE INTRUDER !!
EH ?
BRTTTTT

I AIN'T MOVING I AIN'T I AIN'T
GOOD WORK, MEN!
NO WAIT I AM NOT A
I'M NOT!

SEE! THIS IS WHO YOU GUYS OUGHT TO BE LOOKING FOR
TELL YOU WHAT I'LL SPLIT THE REWARD WITH
SILENCE!!

YOU INTRUDE, THAT MAKES YOU AN INTRUDER
AGGGH!!

GASP
HAHH

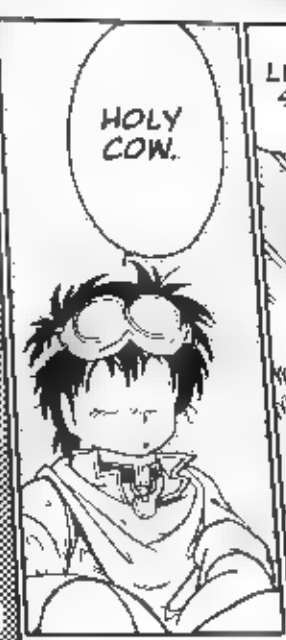

OW OW OWW!
CRYBABY! KEEP WHINING AND THEY'LL HEAR US !?
PAIN IS PAINFUL !

URGG...
RATS! HOW ARE WE EVER GOING TO GET OUT OF THIS PLACE?!

BEATS ME ALL YOUR CRAZY RUNNING ABOUT GOT ME LOST, TOO!
HMPH!

WHOA! WHAT TH-?! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR WOUND?!

I HAVE A SELF-REGENERATIVE FUNCTION
A LITTLE INJURY LIKE THAT HEALS IN NO TIME


HOLY COW.

LEMME S--
WATCH THE HANDS, BUSTER !

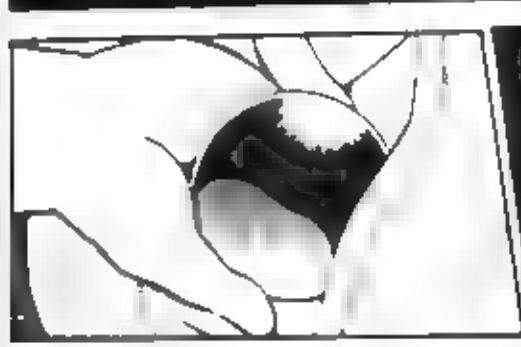
SO YOU REALLY ARE AN ANDROID SHEESH

WHY'D YOU HIDE IT FROM US ALL THIS TIME? IF ONLY YOU'D SAID SOMETHING

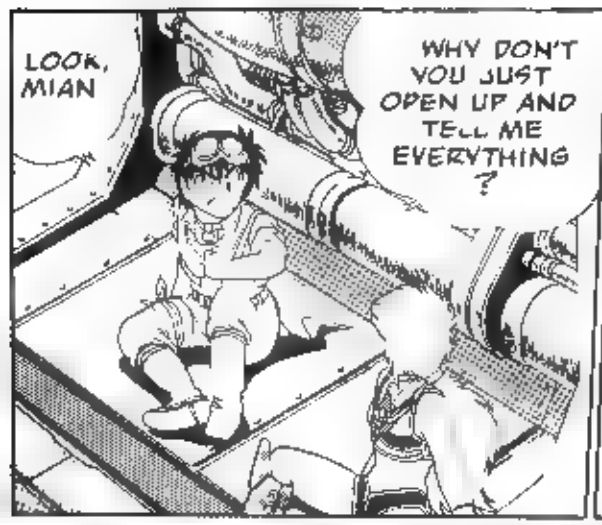
YOU'RE SURPRISED?
OF COURSE I'M SURPRISED!!

SERVANT TO AN ANDROID WHAT A PUNK JOB.
YOU'RE A RED-NECK ANDROPHOBE!

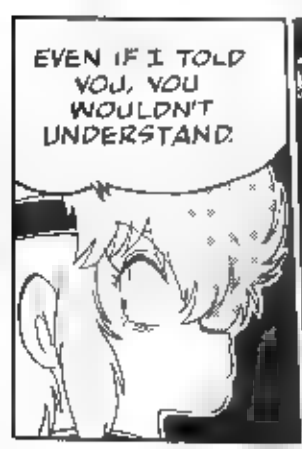
DAMMIT ALL... IT'S GETTING SO I DON'T KNOW WHO TO BELIEVE ANYMORE.
MIAN PLANS TO DESTROY THIS ENTIRE PLANET!



AM I REALLY GOING TO HAVE TO USE THIS THING?


LOOK, MIAN
WHY DON'T YOU JUST OPEN UP AND TELL ME EVERYTHING ?

LIKE, WHERE THE HECK DID YOU COME FROM? WHO THE HELL ARE YOU ?!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, AND WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GONNA DO WHEN YOU GET THERE ?!

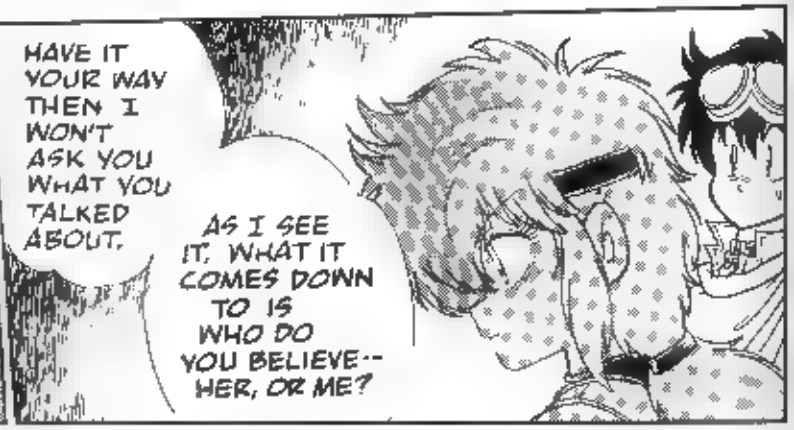

EVEN IF I TOLD YOU, YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

I ALREADY GOT THAT LINE FROM SHION!

HM .SO YOU TALKED WITH HER ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS, EH?
ER, WELL ..
NOT EXACTLY

AND IT ALL SEEMED JUST SO, SO UNBELIEVABLE RIGHT?

I SAID I DIDN'T HEAR NOTHIN'.


HAVE IT YOUR WAY THEN. I WON'T ASK YOU WHAT YOU TALKED ABOUT.
AS I SEE IT, WHAT IT COMES DOWN TO IS WHO DO YOU BELIEVE-- HER, OR ME?

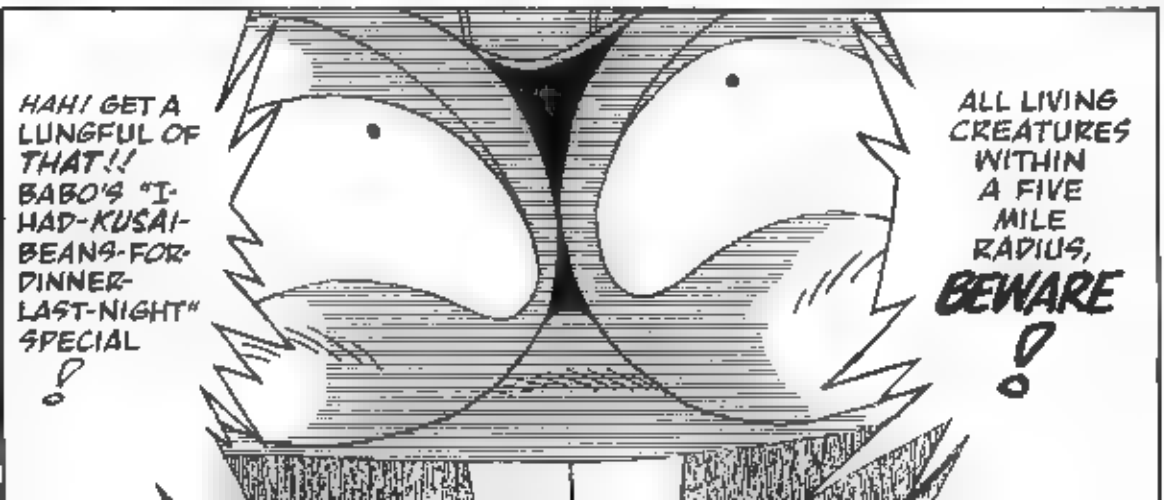
SO OF COURSE, YOU'RE GOING TO STAY WITH ME, RIGHT ?
WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT, HUH? THAT WAS A PRETTY CONFIDENT SMILE ..
BECAUSE MIAN'S NOT HUMAN DOESN'T MEAN SHE REALLY IS GONNA GO BLOW UP THE WORLD OR SOMETHING
FIRST OF ALL NO WAY AM GOING TO BELIEVE EVERYTHING EMPRESS SHION SAID
THE REAL QUESTION IS WHERE SHE MEANS TO TAKE ME
AND WHAT IT IS SHE NEEDS ME FOR
I SAID "RIGHT." RIGHT?!
YOW! YOW! RIGHT!
AND KEEP ONE THING STRAIGHT! ANDROID OR NO ANDROID, I'M STILL YOUR MASTER!
YOU GOT THAT BUDDY ?!
BACK TO NORMAL, HUH?

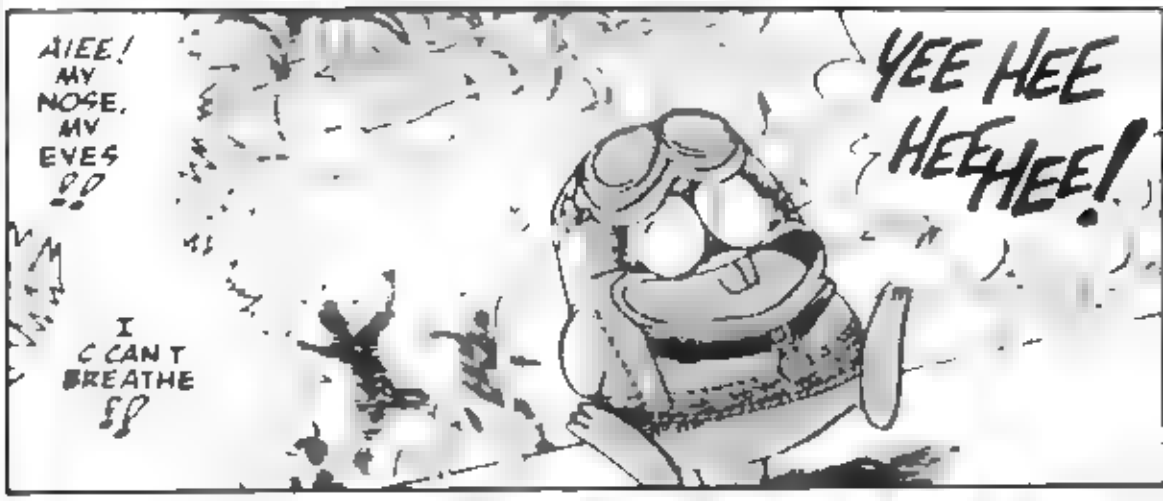
WHUD
WHAT IS THAT "THING"?
ONE OF THE INTRUDERS, YOUR MAJESTY!
YOU WITLESS FOOLS! I HAVE NO INTEREST IN THIS CREATURE!
DISPOSE OF IT IMMEDIATELY!
Y-YES, YOUR MAJESTY!
....
HOW DARE YOU! STOP STARING AT ME!
GEE
YER A REAL HOT BABE!!
SILENCE, SCUM!

THERE ARE MANY REVOLTING CREATURES LIKE YOU IN AKOGI
I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I HAD YOUR RACE EXTERMINATED!
Heh Heh Heh
HA HA HA HAW!
NGGGG!!

FRAPPPPP

BFLPPP!

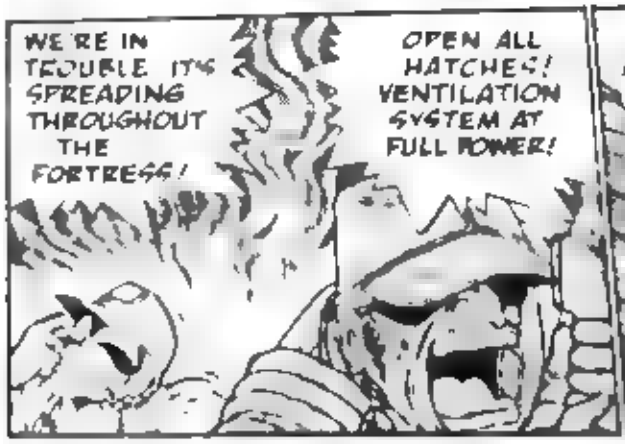



AIEE! MY NOSE, MY EYES !!
I C CAN'T BREATHE !!
YEE HEE HEE HEE!

YOUR MAJESTY! YOU MUST GET OUT OF HERE QUICKLY!

KILL IT!

KILL THAT FILTHY AKOGI SWINE!!
THESE GUYS HAVE HAD IT

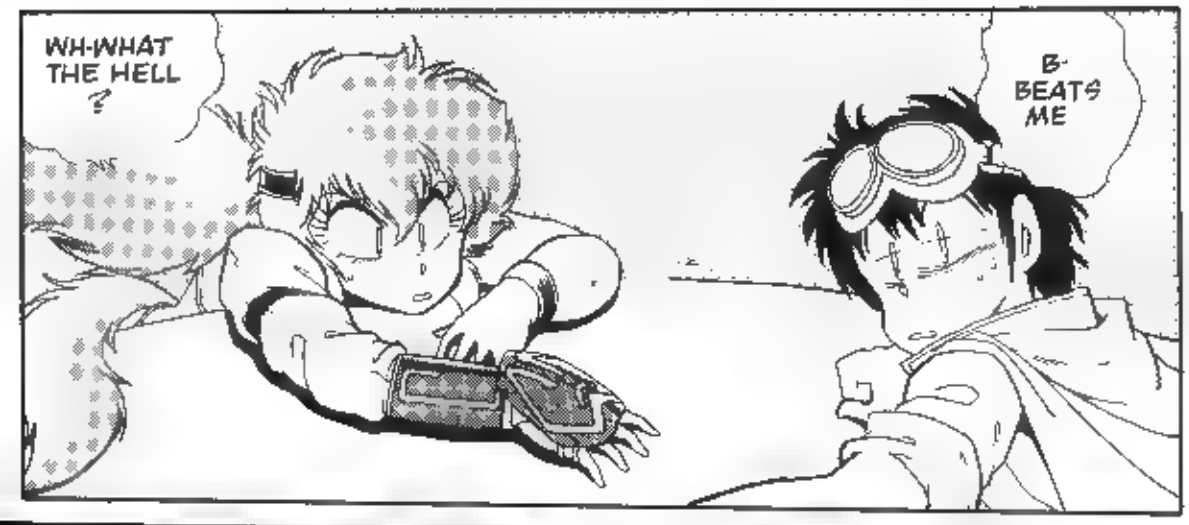

WE'RE IN TROUBLE. IT'S SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE FORTRESS!
OPEN ALL HATCHES! VENTILATION SYSTEM AT FULL POWER!

ACTIVATE ALL AIR FILTERS! BREAK OUT THE EMERGENCY OXYGEN PACKS!

VRRNNVRRNN

AH WHAT A RELIEF!
IT'D BEEN BUILDING UP IN THERE FIT TO BUST
WELL, HEY, IF IT ISN'T OLD WATARU! I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD
BARO!! YOU YOU SKUNK!
THINK BEFORE YOU LET FLY LIKE THAT WILLYA!!
VREEE
YOU DAMN NEAR DID BOTH OF US IN!!
AW, COME ON.
DAMN--I COULD HAVE COLLECTED ON HIS LIFE INSURANCE!
BKOOOM

WHRAMMM
UNNAAA!!


WH-WHAT THE HELL ?
B-BEATS ME

BA BO!!
LUCKY I STILL HAD SOME LEFT IN THE OLD PLUMBING, EH?

THEY'RE GETTING AWAY !!
DAMN THAT LITTLE GASBAG !!

FORGIVE US, YOUR HIGHNESS NONE OF US DREAMED THE AKOGI HAD SUCH FIENDISH SKILLS.

I'LL MOBILIZE AN AIR-MOBILE BRIGADE IMMEDIATELY AND TRACK THEM DOWN

.....

COLONEL PIET! DEPLOY FIRST AND THIRD SQUADRONS !!

NO.

PARDON, MAJESTY ?

LET THEM GO. MIAN IS TRAVELLING WITH A TIME BOMB NOW..

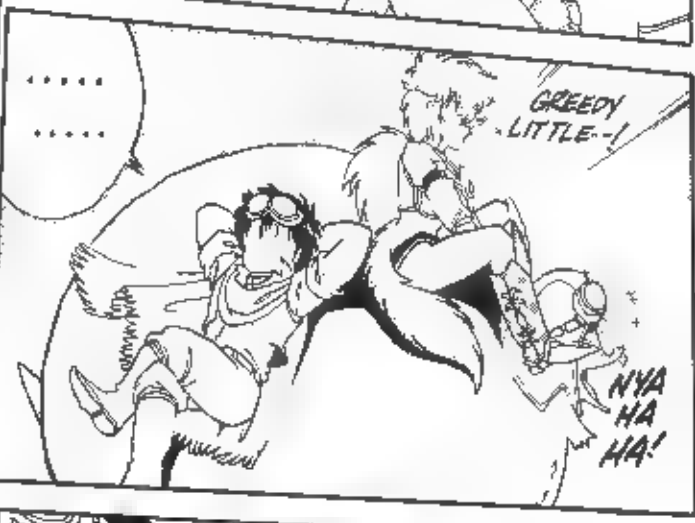
..AND HER DARLING WATARU WILL BE THE TRIGGER

BUT SHE ISN'T OUR *ONLY* ENEMY

THERE'S ANOTHER LITTLE TASK TO TAKE CARE OF FIRST.

WELL, I'LL BE DAMNED! YOU'RE GOOD FOR SOMETHING AFTER ALL, BABO!
HEY! STOP JUMPING AROUND ALREADY.

BALLOON RIDES: 200 R.D. (PER PERSON PER HOUR)
.....

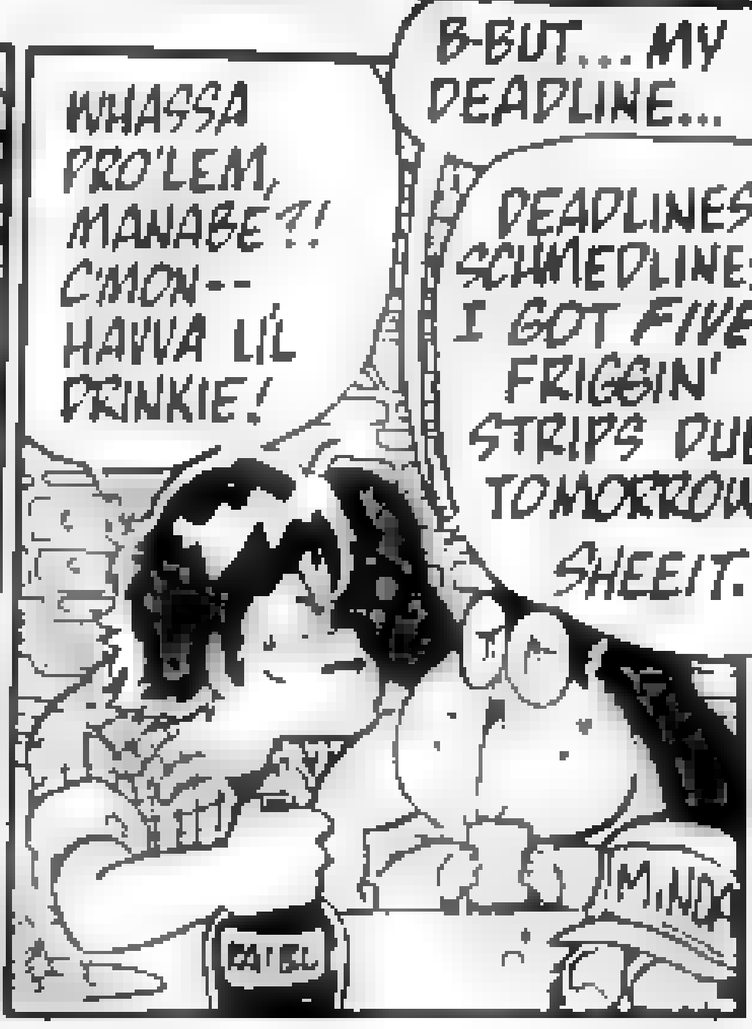

.....
.....
GREEDY LITTLE--!
NYA HA HA!

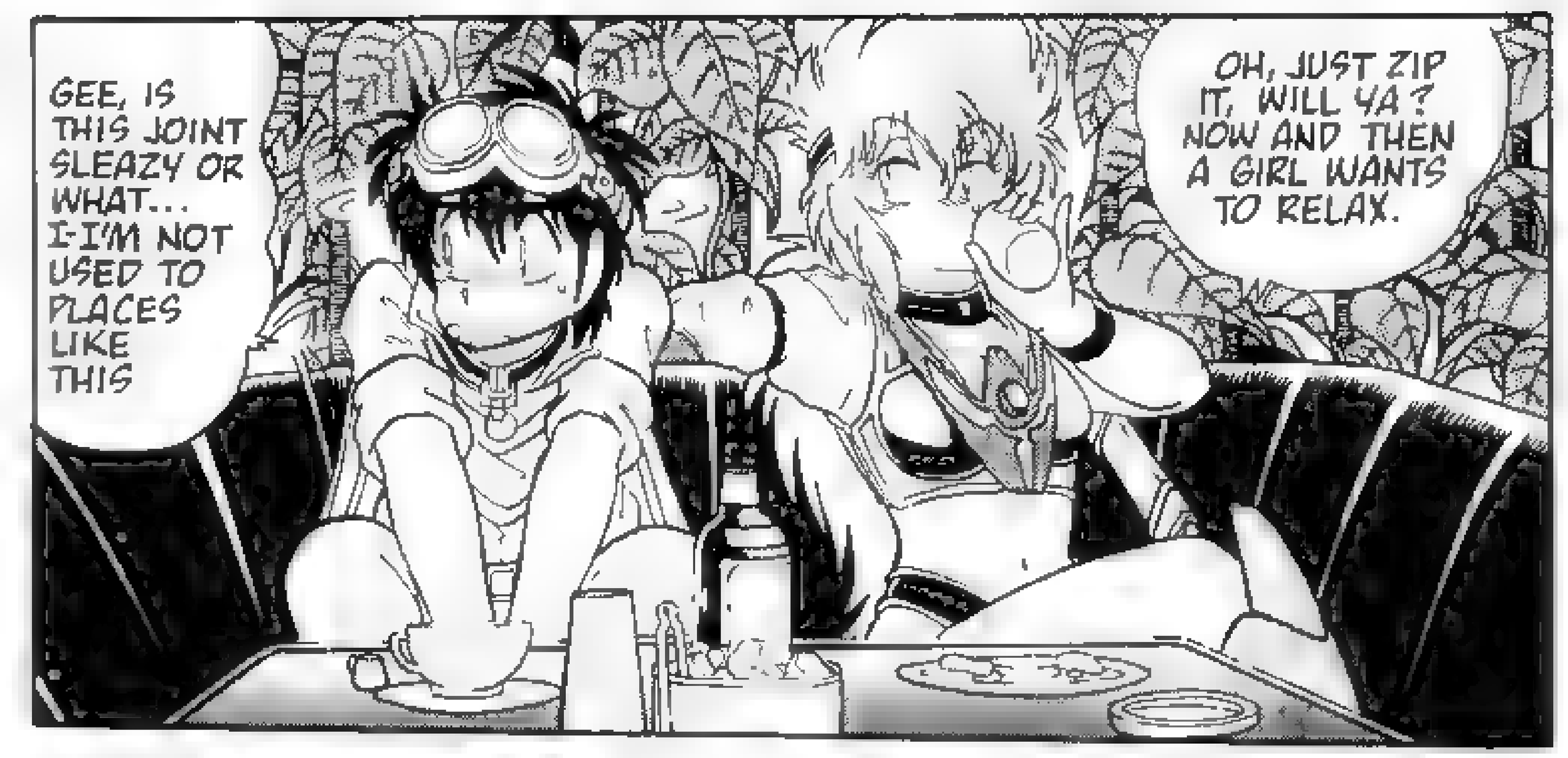
WHERE DO YOU MEAN TO TAKE US, MIAN?
I WONDER IF IT'LL ALL BECOME CLEAR TO ME WHEN WE GET THERE?

"AW, WHAT THE HECK! WE'VE COME THIS FAR TOGETHER! I'LL STICK WITH YOU TO THE VERY END, MIAN!"
"IF I'VE GOT TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO SOMETIME, I MIGHT AS WELL WAIT UNTIL THEN!"

SING
FOR YOUR
LIFE

TOKOROZAWA CITY

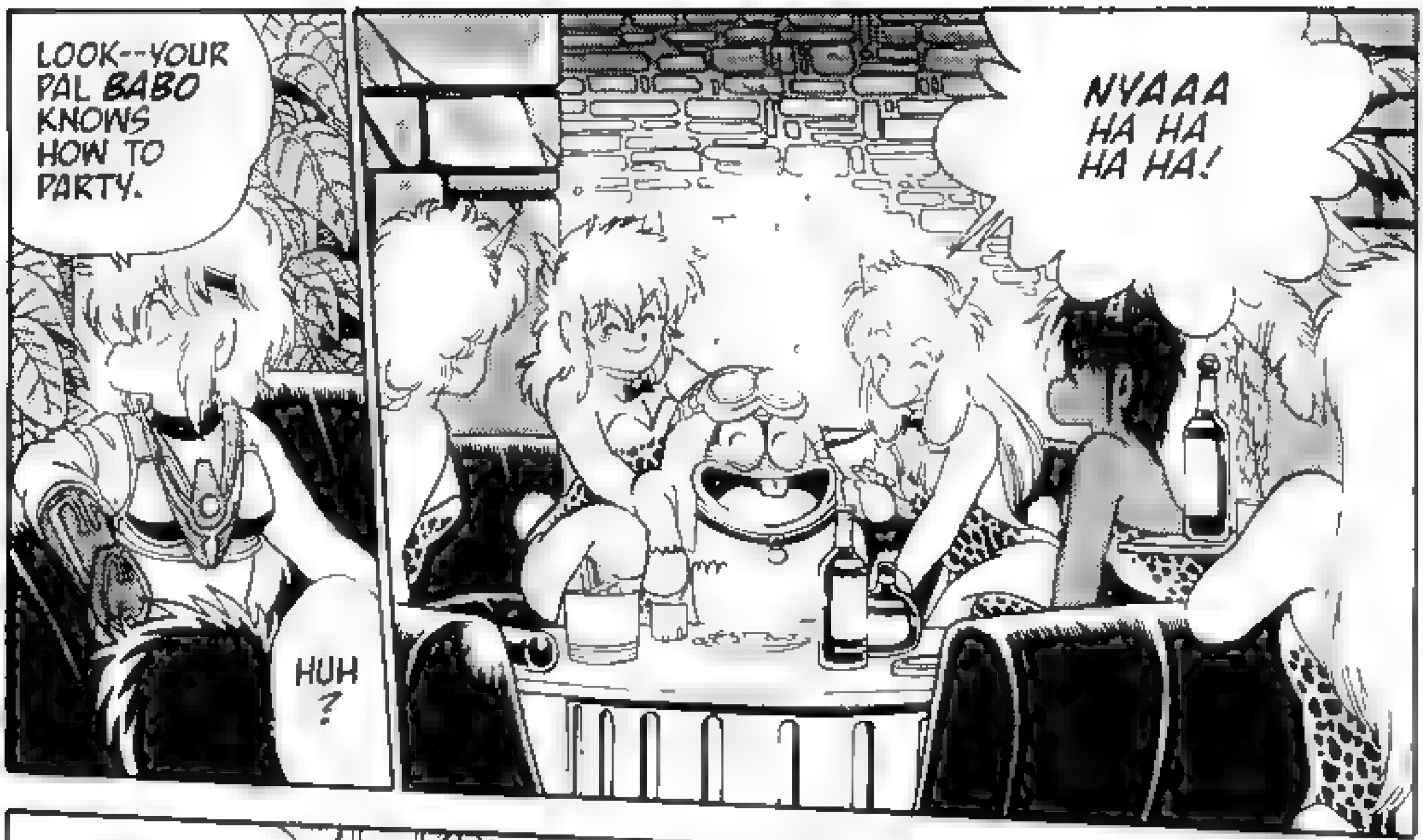


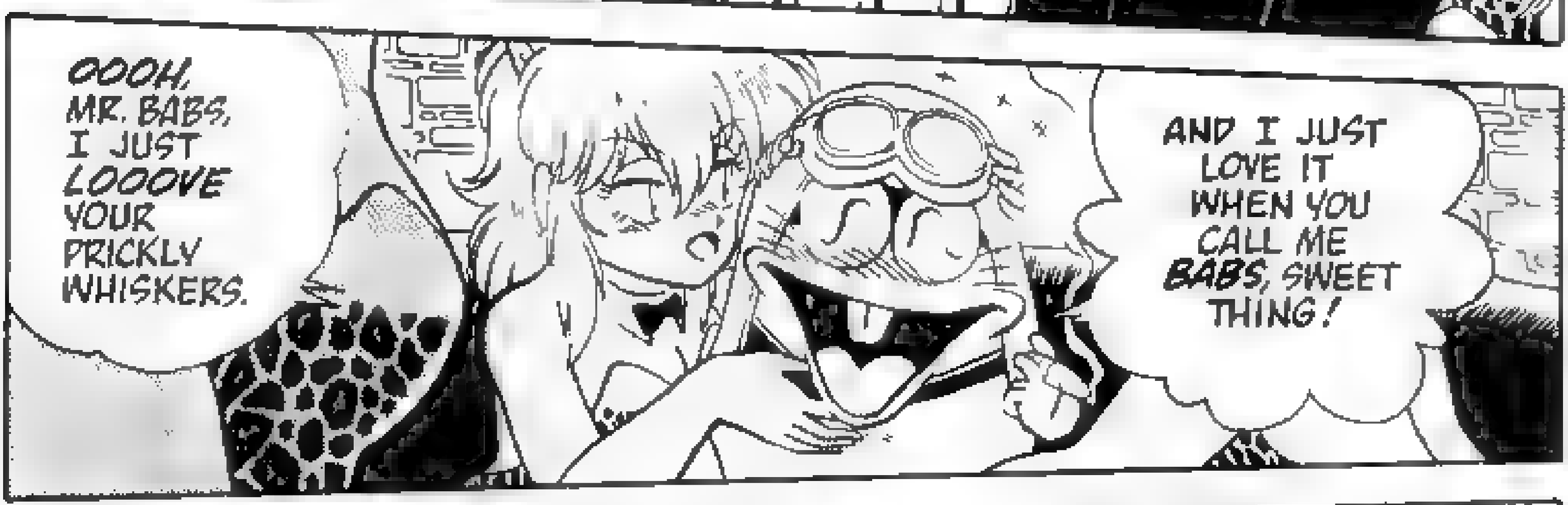

GEE, IS THIS JOINT SLEAZY OR WHAT... I-I'M NOT USED TO PLACES LIKE THIS
OH, JUST ZIP IT, WILL YA? NOW AND THEN A GIRL WANTS TO RELAX.

C'MON, MIAN.. LET'S GO, PLEASE?
JEEZ...HAVEN'T YOU EVER BEEN TO A CLUB BEFORE?
I NEVER HAD THE MONEY TO WASTE ON ONE, THAT'S WHY!
NO MONEY, THAT PART I BELIEVE.

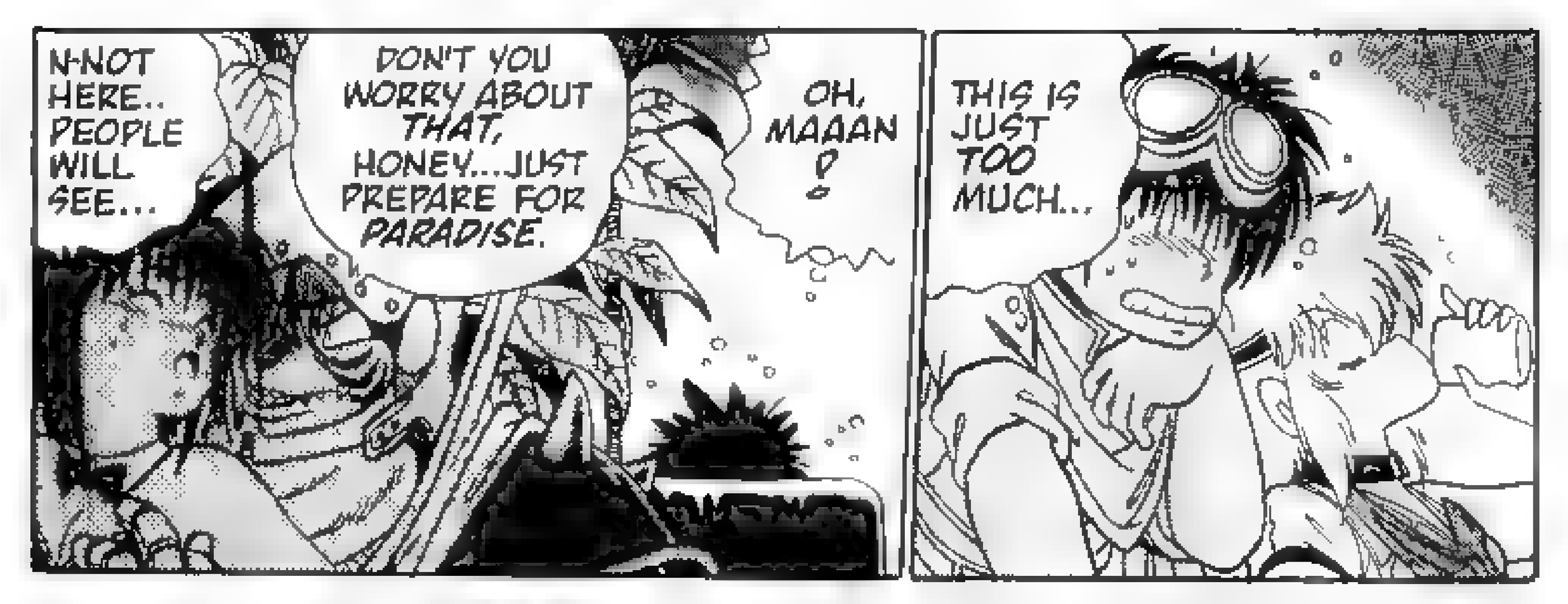
HEY! DON'T SMOKE, FOR CHRISSAKE! THIS IS A HEALTHY COMIC BOOK!
IT'S COOL, IT'S COOL. I'M AN ANDROID, REMEMBER?

YOU'RE STILL SETTING A BAD EXAMPLE!
BOY, HAVE YOU EVER GOT A STICK UP YOUR BUTT!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST RELAX AND LOOSEN UP FOR ONCE, HUH?!


LOOK--YOUR PAL BABO KNOWS HOW TO PARTY.
HUH ?
NYAAA HA HA HA HA!

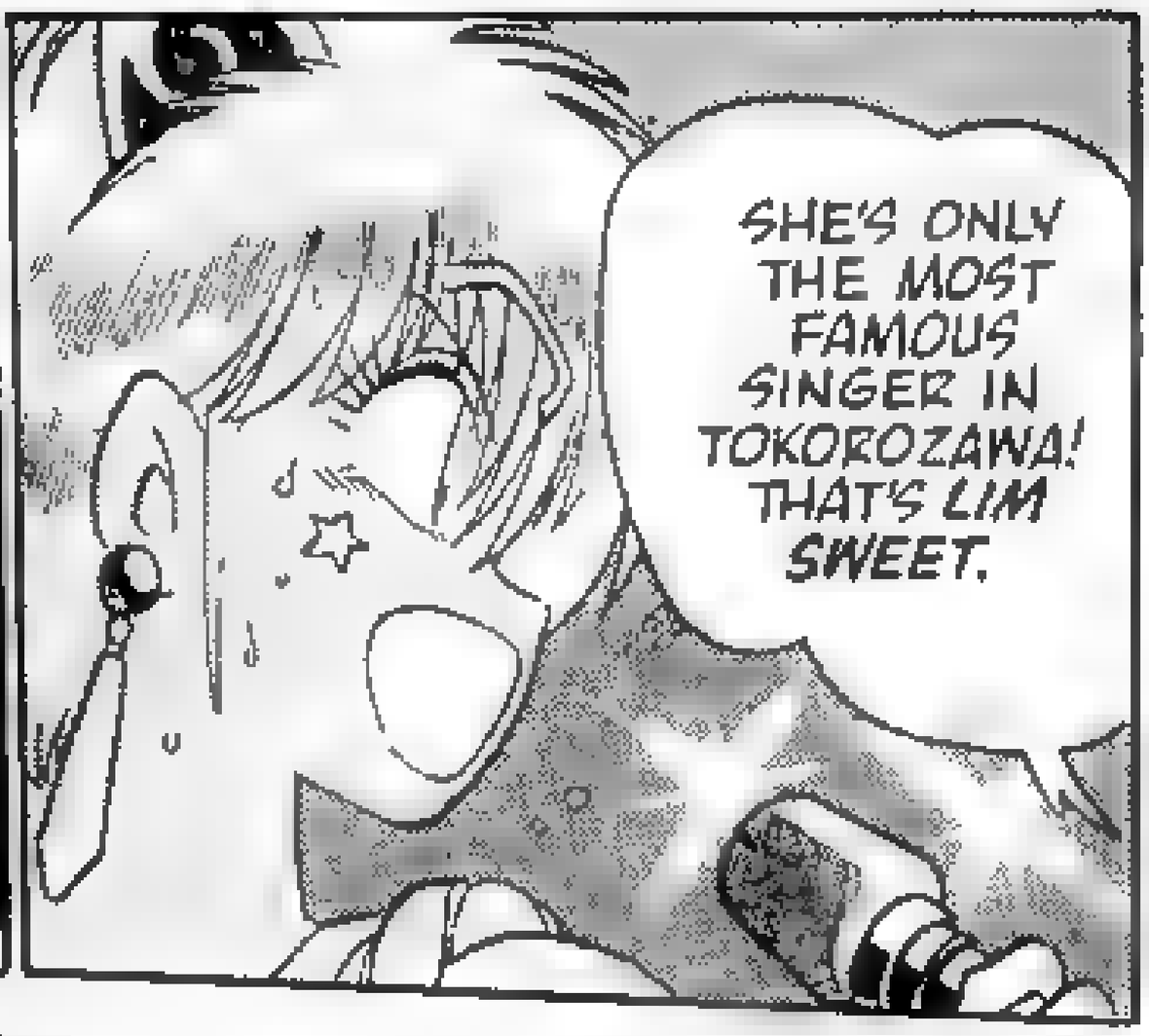

OOOH, MR. BABS, I JUST LOOOVE YOUR PRICKLY WHISKERS.
AND I JUST LOVE IT WHEN YOU CALL ME BABS, SWEET THING!

MR. BABO, SIR? CAN I HAVE A TEENY-WEENY LIL DRINK, TOO?
SUCK IT UP, CUTIE! GOTTA WATER THOSE WATER-MELONS!
OOH, MR. BABO! STAAAP IT! HEE HEE!
THAT LECHEROUS LITTLE GNOME!
I WONDER IF HE'S GOT ANY MONEY...
EEEK! MR BABO!
GRAAH!


N-NOT HERE.. PEOPLE WILL SEE...
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT THAT, HONEY...JUST PREPARE FOR PARADISE.
OH, MAAAN ?
THIS IS JUST TOO MUCH...

YEEP!
WATARU !!
=HIC=
FILL ME UP !!
WHAT TH' HELL... FOR A LITTLE WIMP WHO AIN'T DRINKIN, YOU SURE ARE RED...
ME, UH, ME?! I, ER...
YOU'RE NOT THINKING ABOUT YOU-KNOW-WHAT, ARE YOU ?!
UH, I, UH...
WELL, EHEH, YOU KNOW, THIS KIND OF PLACE DOES HAVE THAT EFFECT ON A MAN...
ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY!!

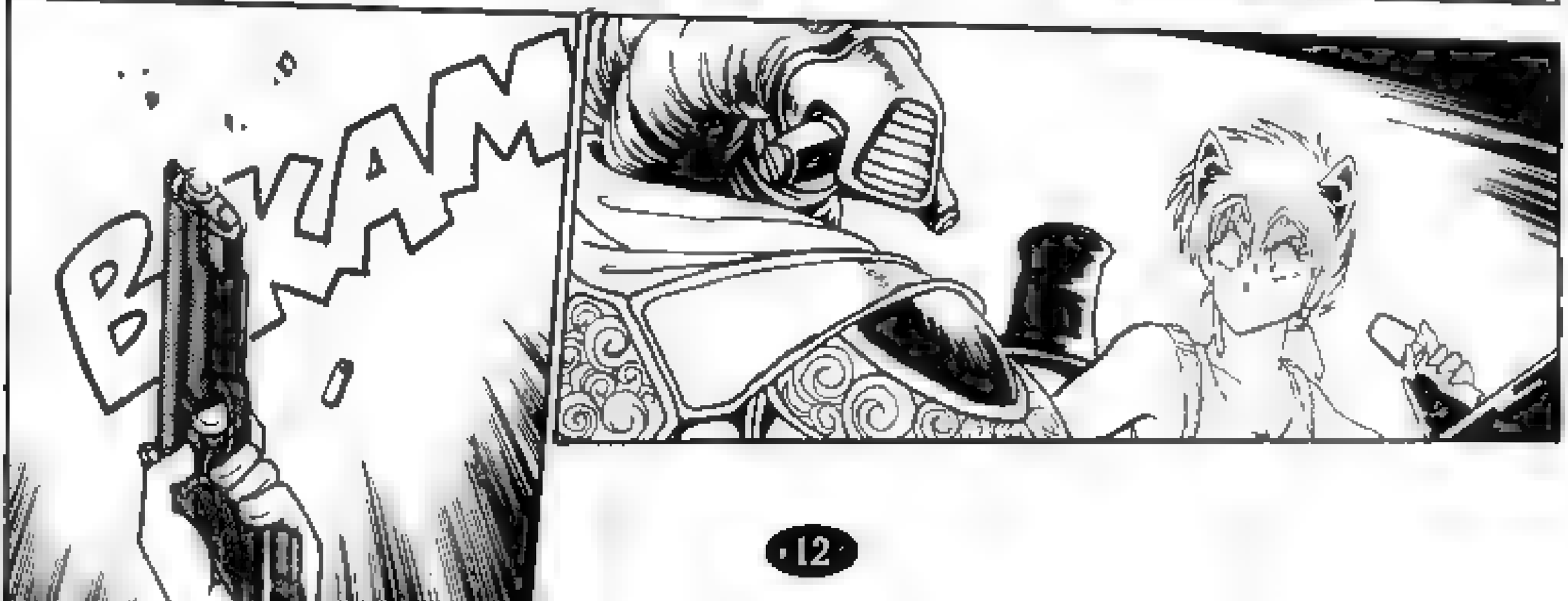
WHAT A RACKET! WHO'S SHE?
WHAT?! YOU DON'T KNOW WHO THAT IS, MIAN?


SHE'S ONLY THE MOST FAMOUS SINGER IN TOKOROZAWA! THAT'S LIM SWEET.

HER SONGS ARE RADICAL ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT ANTHEMS, SO THE EMPIRE'S ALWAYS HASSLING HER.
NO KIDDIN'..

TOO BAD SHE CAN'T SING.

WA-HOO!


BAM

THUD THUD THUD

SHIT! IT'S THE COPS!

NOBODY MOVE!! THIS BAR IS SEALED FOR A HEALTH INSPECTION!

NO ONE LEAVES THE PREMISES!!

WHAT DO YOU WANT, PIGS!

YOU BETTER NOT SPOIL MY SHOW!

I WARNED YOU, REMEMBER?!

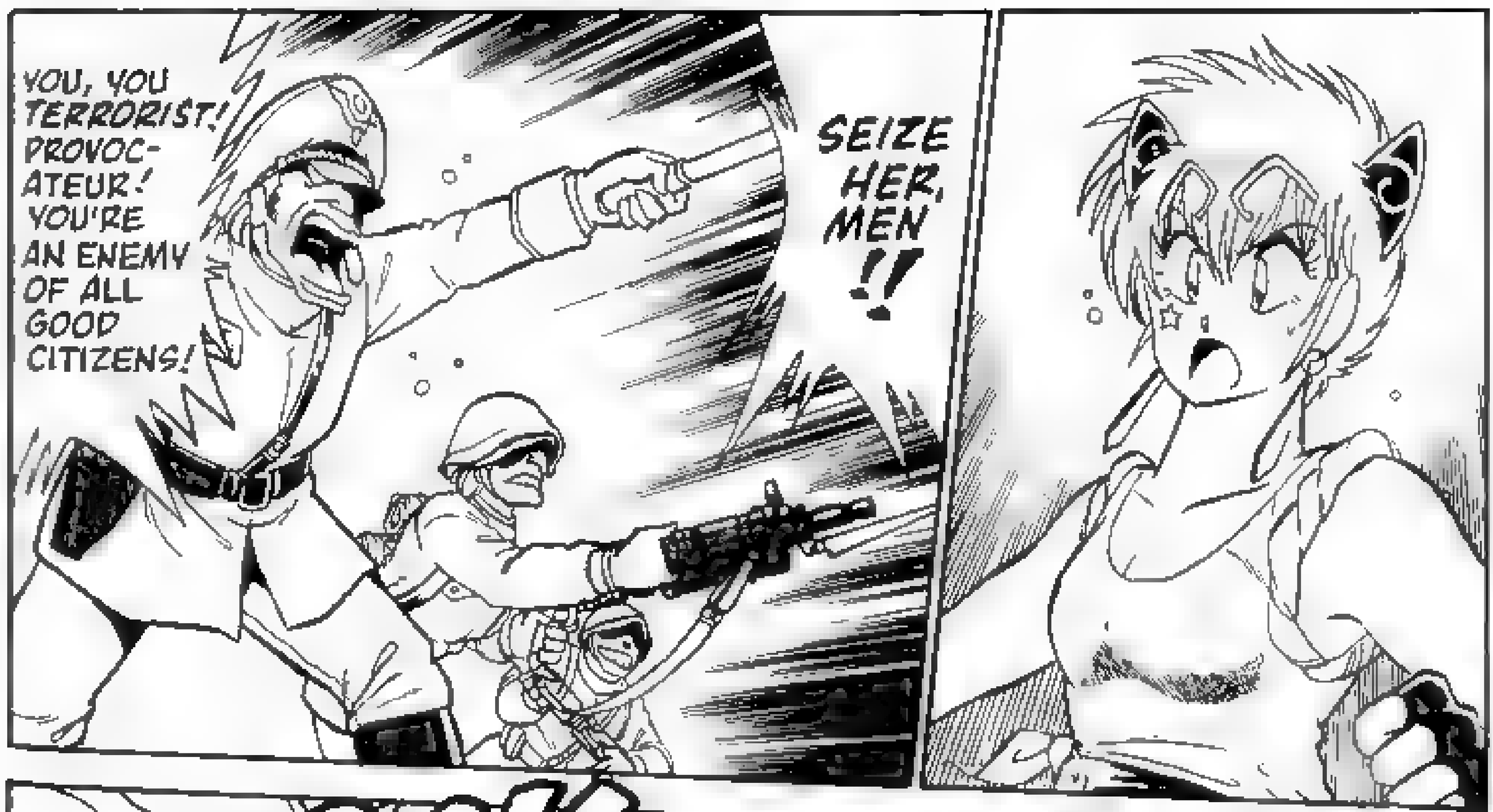
SING ONE MORE TIME, AND I'LL HAVE YOU IN CHAINS!

OH, GEE... DID YOU?

UH, JUST ONE MOMENT, SIR!

DO YOU OWN THIS DUMP?!

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF LETTING THIS EXTREMIST PERFORM HERE?
YOUR LIQUOR LICENSE IS HEREBY REVOKED FOR TEN YEARS!!
YAIEE!!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING AN EXTREMIST, COP?!
I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE AN IMPERIAL RUNNING DOG, LIKE YOU!
SILENCE!! TOKOROZAWA IS A FAITHFUL ALLY OF THE EMPIRE!
YOUR HIDEOUS SCREECHING AND WAILING IS A THREAT TO OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS! YOU THREATEN THE VERY PEACE OF OUR COUNTRY!!
OH, FOR SURE! "ALLIES," ARE WE?!
YOU THUGS JUST DO EMPRESS SHION'S DIRTY WORK FOR HER! IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL PEACE?!
THEN I DON'T WANT IT!
HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS?!
NO WAY!!
YOU SHUT UP NOW!!


YOU, YOU TERRORIST! PROVOC-ATEUR! YOU'RE AN ENEMY OF ALL GOOD CITIZENS!
SEIZE HER, MEN!!

HAHAHAHA

HEH HEH
SIR! ARE YOU OKAY?!

WHO THE--

AWW... MIAN..
YOU LITTLE BITCH!
YOU GUYS GOT A LOT OF NERVE, BUGGIN' ME WHEN I'M DRINKING!
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I'M IN ONE BAAAD MOOD!

WHRAKK

SO TAKE A HIKE !!

THDD

OH, GOD... NOT AGAIN...

WHAT ARE YOU IDIOTS DOING?! SHE'S JUST A GIRL!

JUST SHOOT HER AND BE DONE WITH IT!

GET 'EM, BOYS!

TAGG

MOVE YOUR ASS, RUNT !!
YOU WON'T WORK OFF A SINGLE BEER THAT WAY!
AW, GIVE ME A BREAK..
I'LL GIVE YOU A BREAK ALL RIGHT, YOU GRUBBY LITTLE OIK! DRINKING AND PAWING ME WITHOUT ANY MONEY!
AND THEN TRYING TO SNEAK OUT THE BACK!
HOW YOU GOING TO PAY US BACK?!
ALL I'VE GOT TO SELL IS MY BODY.
WHAT GOOD IS THIS BAG OF BLUBBER ?!
WHOA !
WHOA !
LET ME SHOW YOU, BABY!
SMEERP

YOU SLIMY LITTLE PERVERT !!!
SMACK
WHOP
WHOK
HEY! WATARU! STOP BEING DEAD ALREADY!
HEY, THANKS FOR STEPPING IN BACK THERE.
YOU SAVED MY ASS FOR SURE.
NO TROUBLE, DEAR.
I WAS GETTING ALL ITCHY FOR ACTION, ANYWAY.
SASSSSH
MY NAME'S MIAN--NICE TMEETCHA !
UH, SHOULDN'T YOU, UMM, TREAT HIM A LITTLE MORE CAREFULLY... ?
OH, THIS THING? IT'S COOL-- HE'S JUST MY PET.
HEY, SAY HELLO!
"PET"..?

HEY, DO PEOPLE FREAK OUT LIKE THAT *EVERY* TIME YOU SING?

HMPH! NICE WAY TO PUT IT!

NAW, IT'S JUST THEY'RE REALLY CLAMPING DOWN NOW. I DON'T MUCH LIKE FIGHTS.

FOR SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T LIKE FIGHTS, YOU SURE LIKE TO *START* THEM!

YEAH... I'M KIND OF A *ONE-WOMAN REBELLION.*

A REBELLION? *THAT?*

YOU HEARD ME.

IT'S MY WAY OF FIGHTING THE EMPIRE. NOT MUCH, BUT IT'S ALL I GOT.

SURE, I KNOW YOU CAN'T CALL THAT *FIGHTING.* MORE LIKE A MOSQUITO BITE...

BUT IF I DON'T DO WHAT I CAN, I COULDN'T FACE MYSELF IN THE MIRROR EACH MORNING.

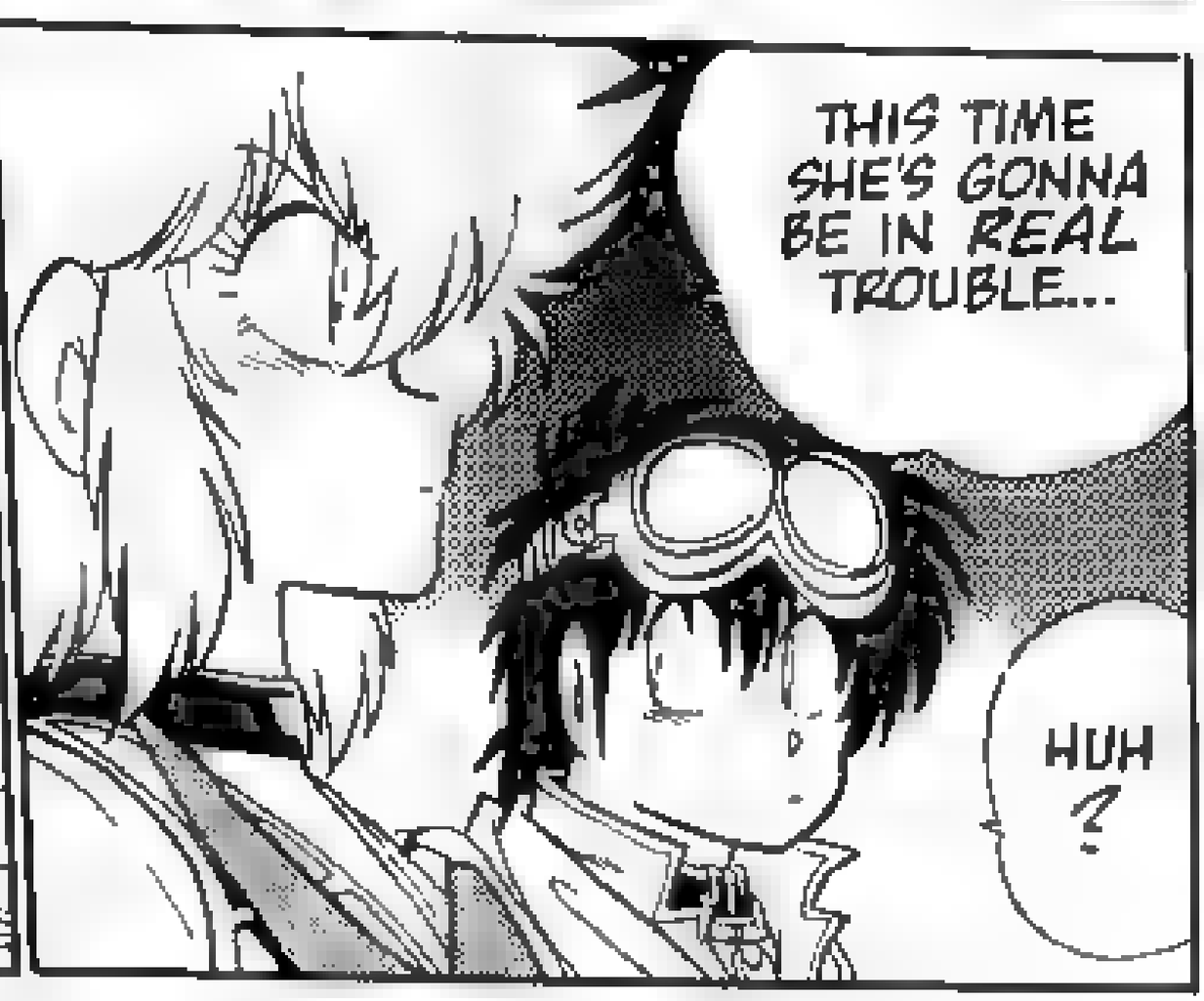
IT MAY NOT GO SO WELL NEXT TIME.

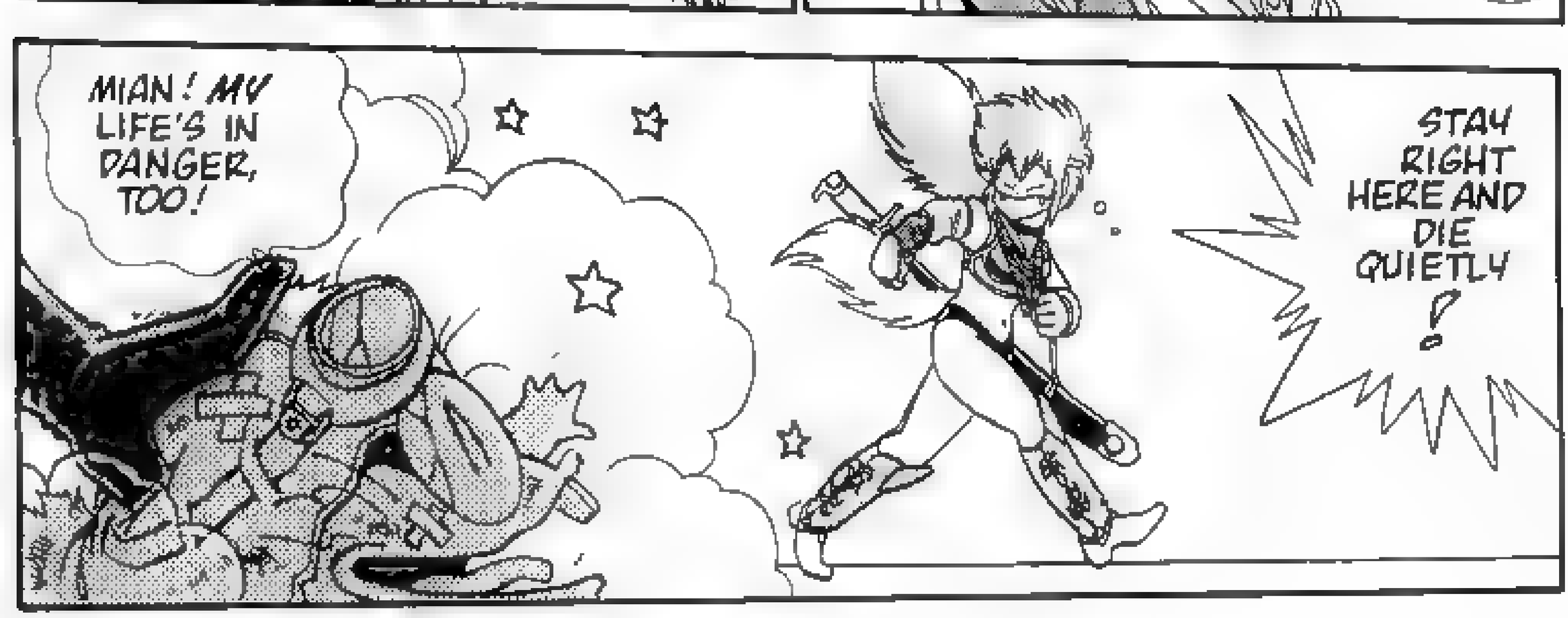
WE'LL SEE, WE'LL SEE.
UH OH-- TIME TO GO.

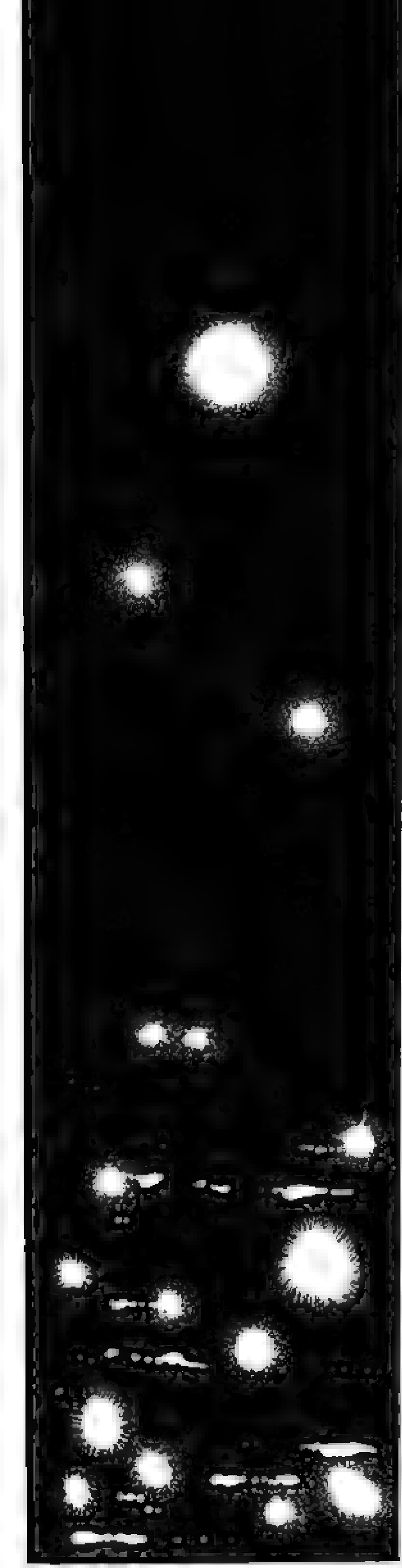
I STILL GOT SOME WORK TO DO. SEE YA!
A REAL STAR

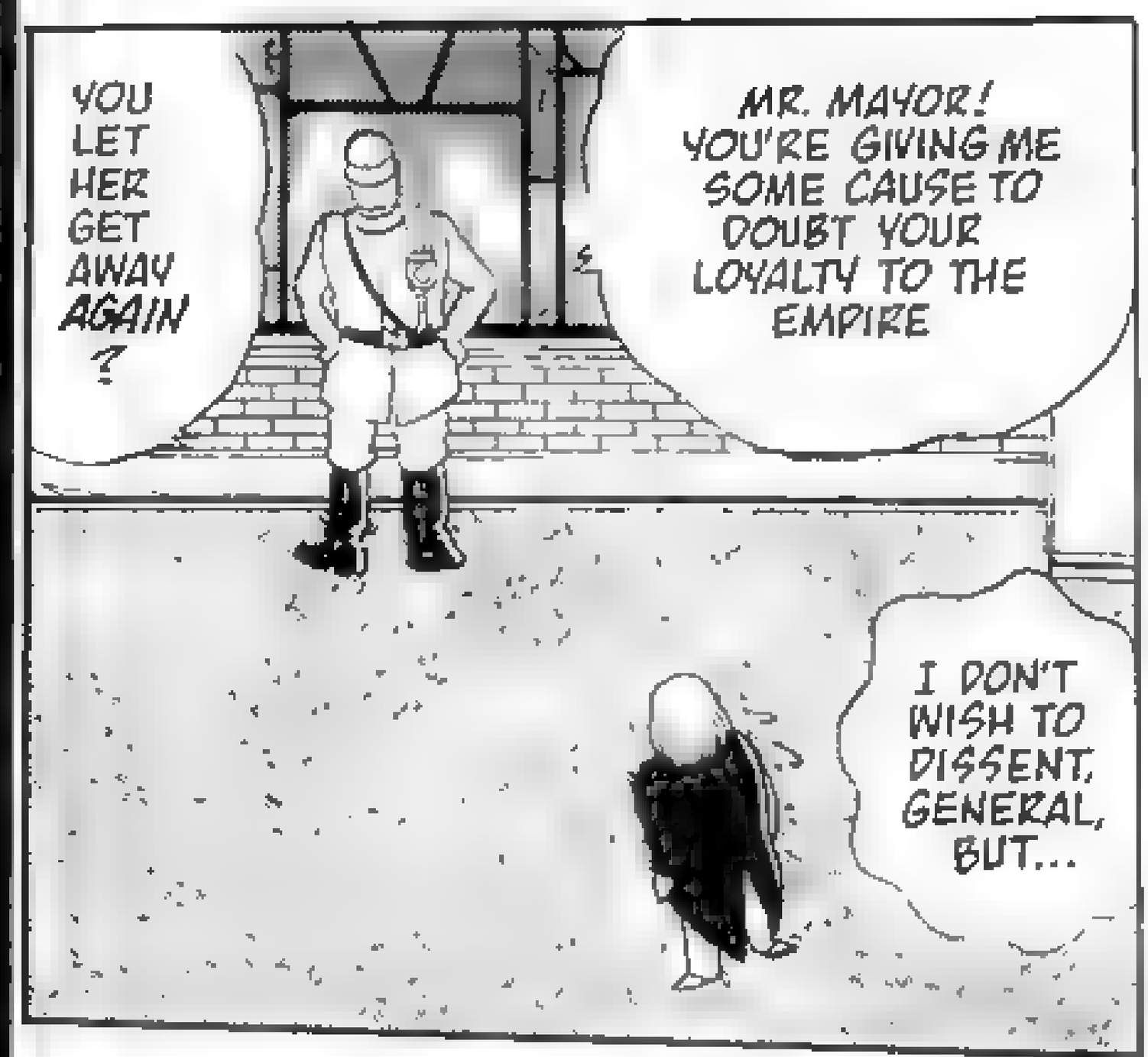
YOU SAID IT! SPECIAL PERFORMANCE AT THE BAR EXETER!!
I'VE GOT TWO MORE GIGS TONIGHT!
HEY, IF YOU FEEL LIKE IT, DROP ON BY!

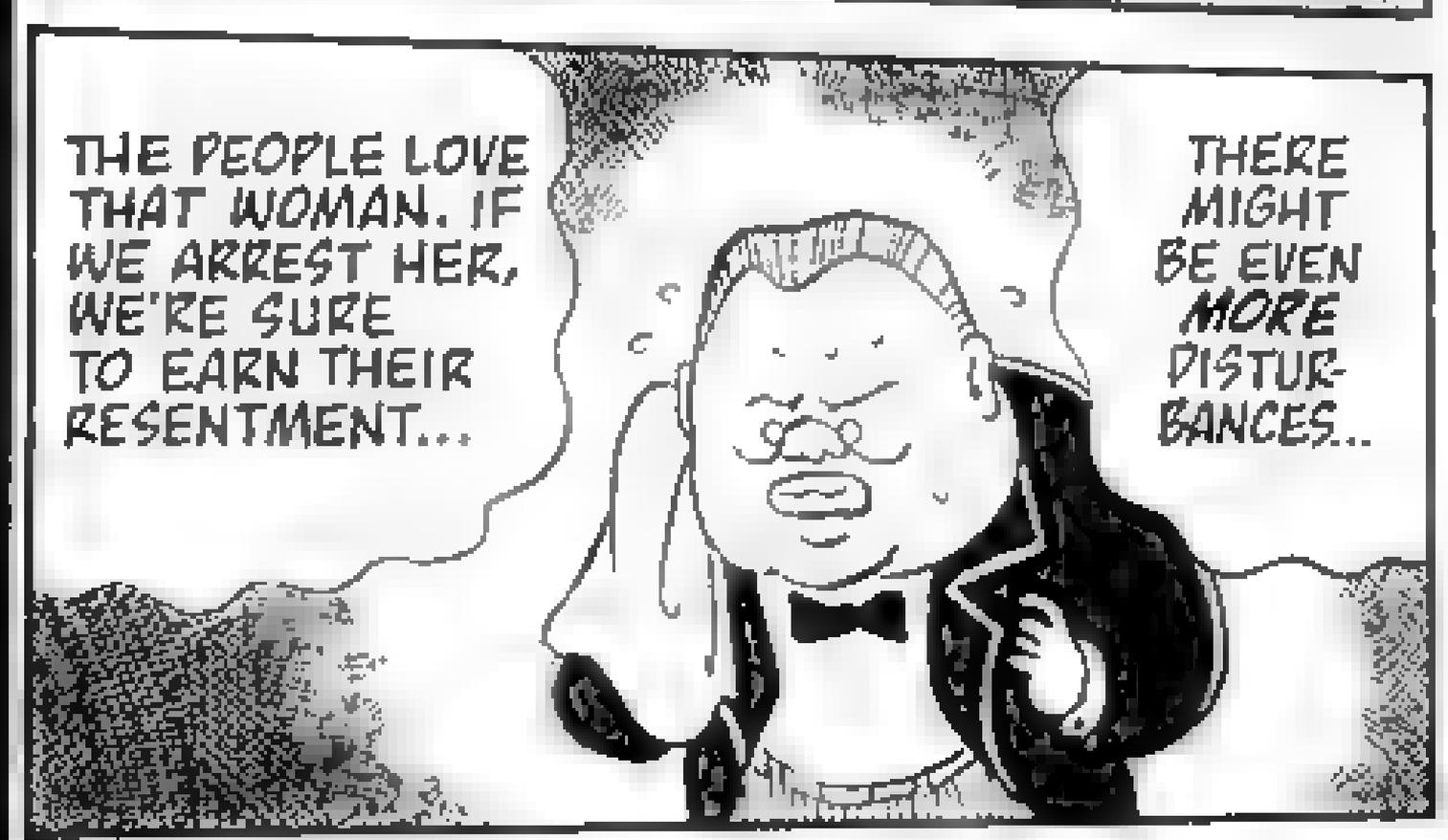
THE BAR EXETER, HMM...
OH, RATS! I DIDN'T GET HER AUTOGRAPH.


THIS TIME SHE'S GONNA BE IN REAL TROUBLE...
HUH?

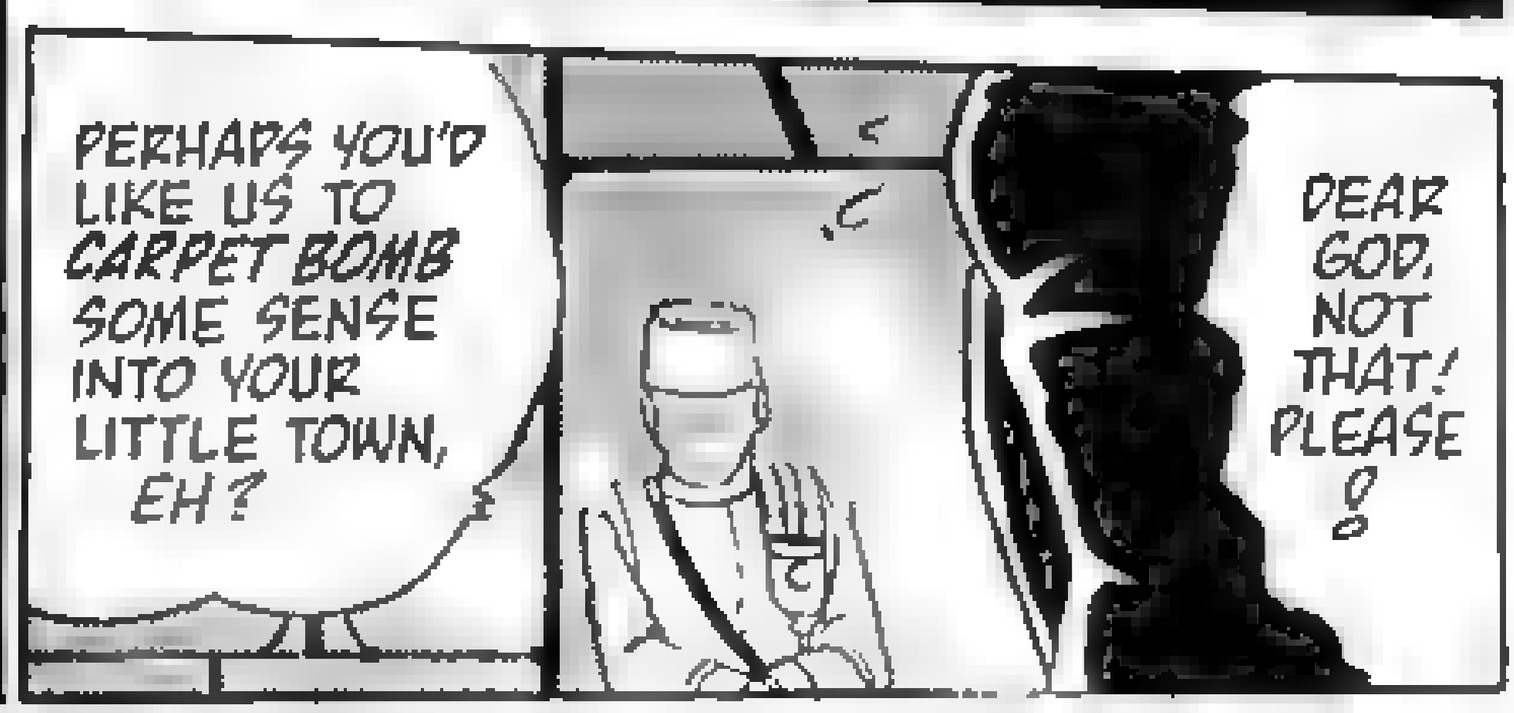

MIAN! MY LIFE'S IN DANGER, TOO!
STAY RIGHT HERE AND DIE QUIETLY!



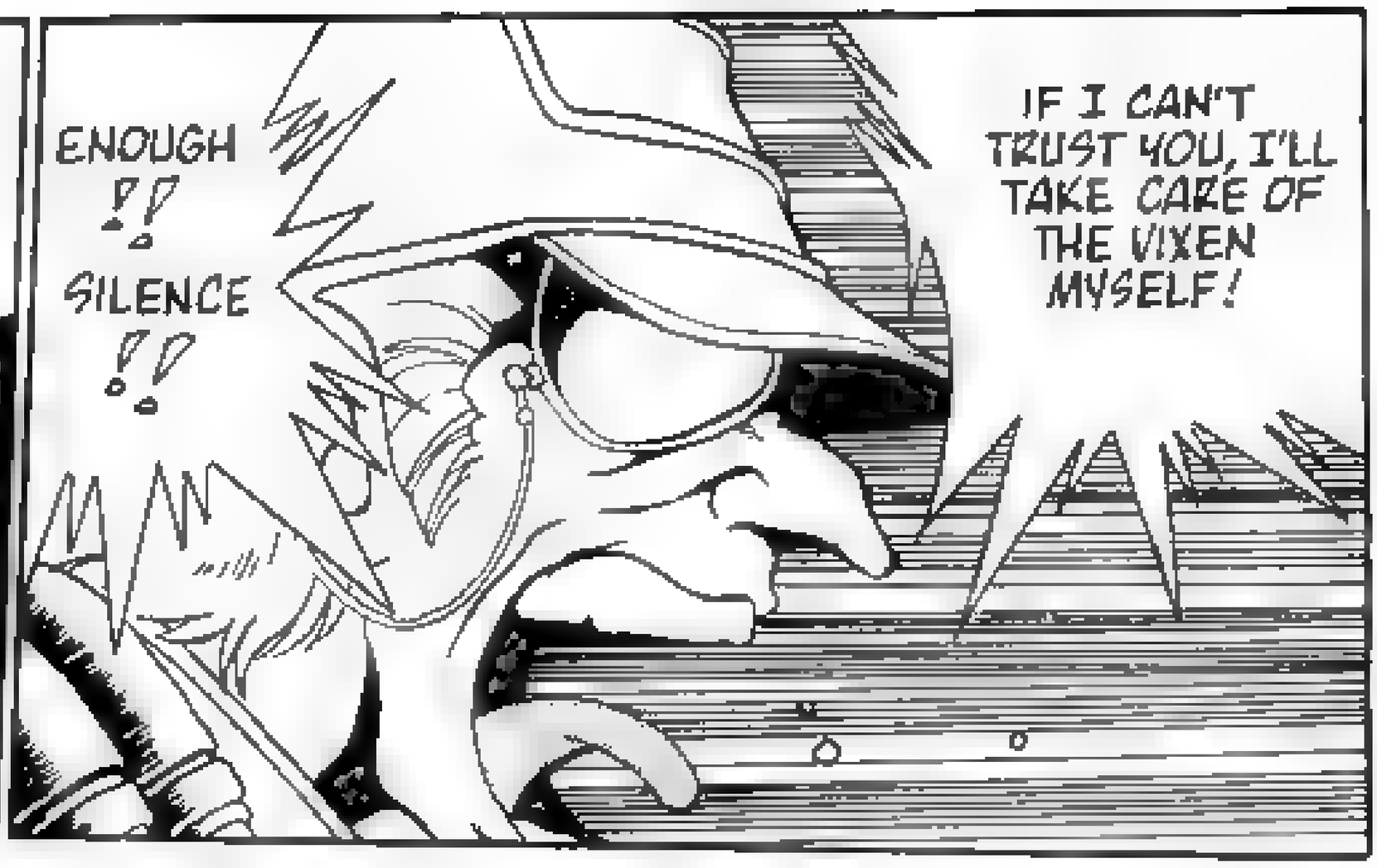

YOU LET HER GET AWAY AGAIN ?
MR. MAYOR! YOU'RE GIVING ME SOME CAUSE TO DOUBT YOUR LOYALTY TO THE EMPIRE
I DON'T WISH TO DISSENT, GENERAL, BUT...

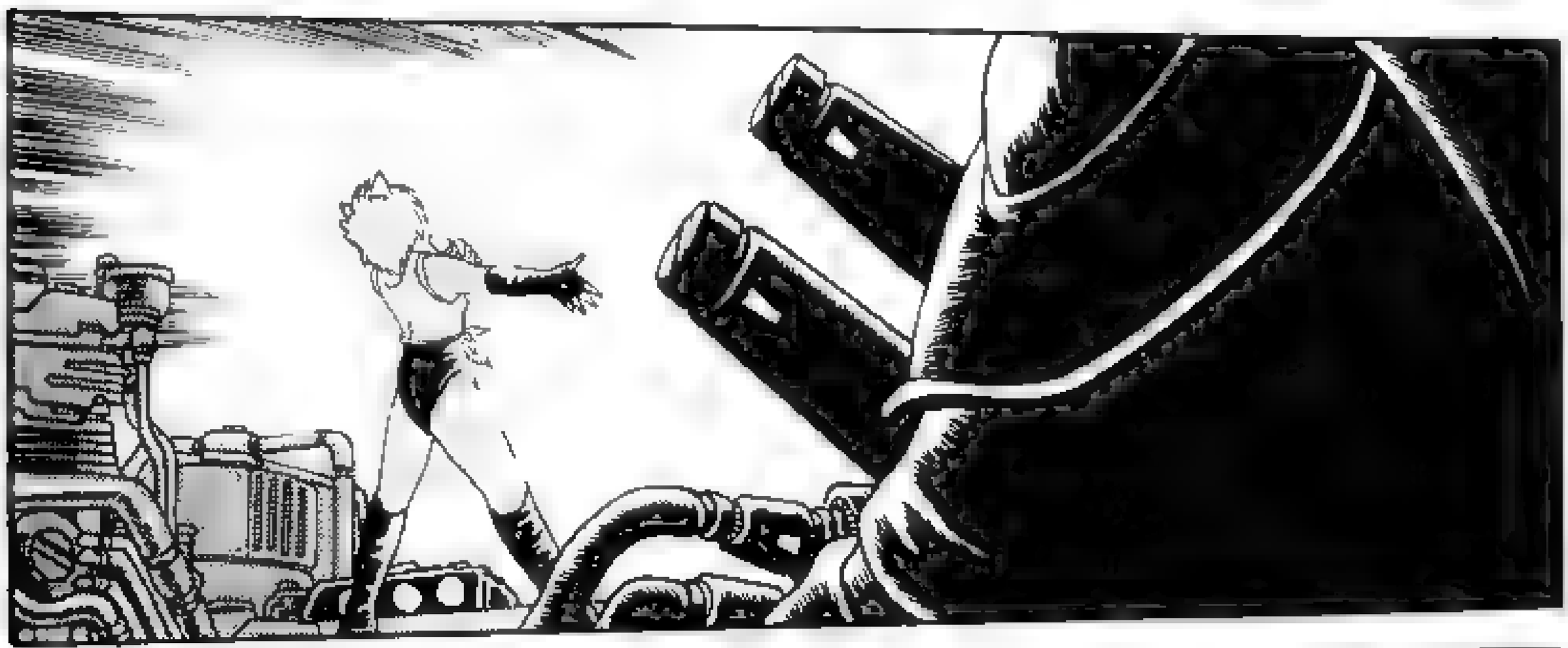

THE PEOPLE LOVE THAT WOMAN. IF WE ARREST HER, WE'RE SURE TO EARN THEIR RESENTMENT...
THERE MIGHT BE EVEN MORE DISTUR-BANCES...

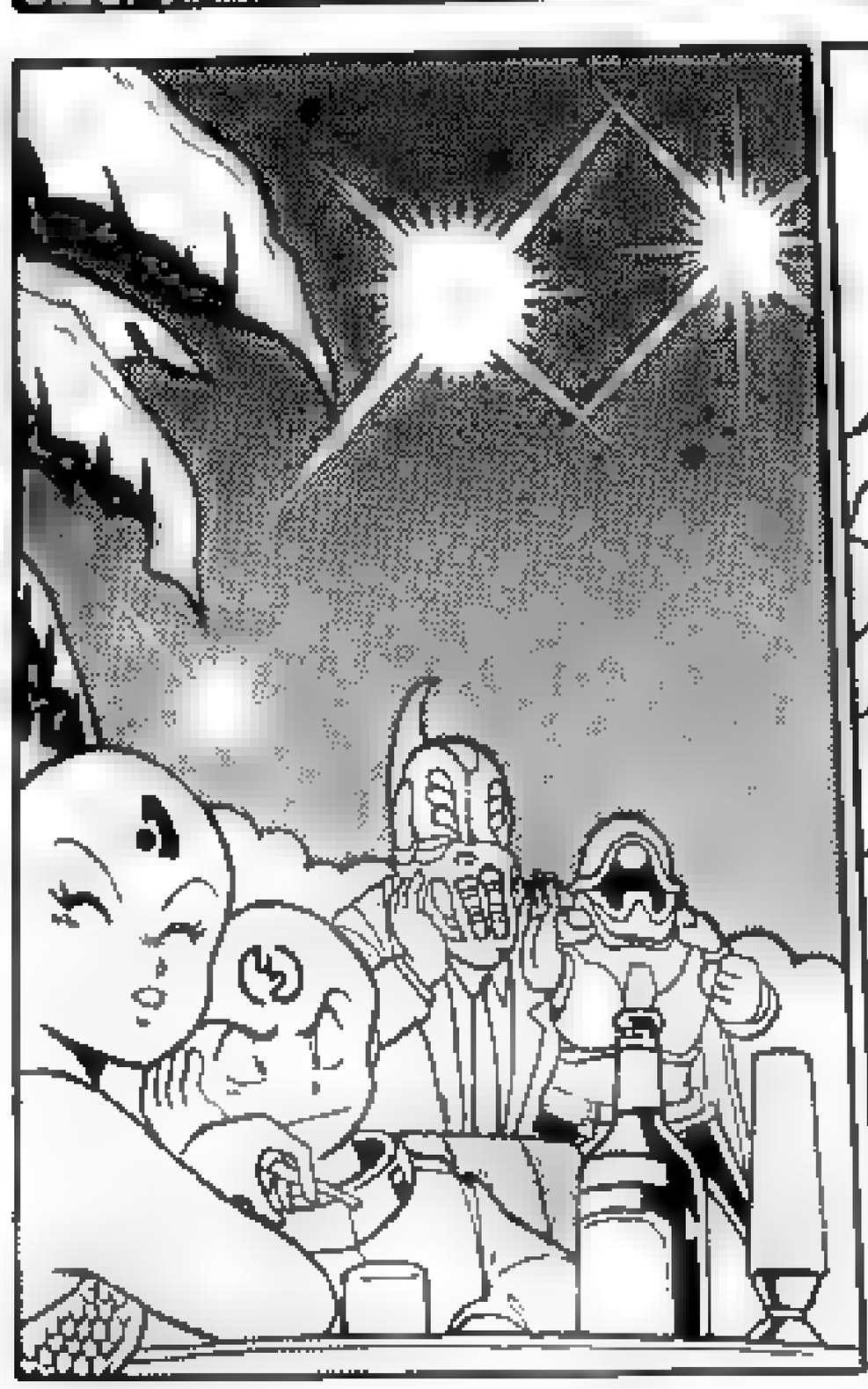
THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM, MAYOR !
THE PROBLEM IS THAT YOUR PEOPLE LOVE A KNOWN ANTI-IMPERIALIST EXTREMIST DISSIDENT!!


PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE US TO CARPET BOMB SOME SENSE INTO YOUR LITTLE TOWN, EH?
DEAR GOD, NOT THAT! PLEASE !

IT'S JUST THAT, AS ONE ENTRUSTED WITH THE GOVERNANCE OF MY PEOPLE, I'D LIKE TO AVOID ANY UNNECESSARY--


ENOUGH !! SILENCE !!
IF I CAN'T TRUST YOU, I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE VIXEN MYSELF!





WOW! SHE SURE KNOWS HOW TO WORK A CROWD.
IF SHE'S THIS POPULAR, NO WONDER THEY WANT TO LOCK HER UP.

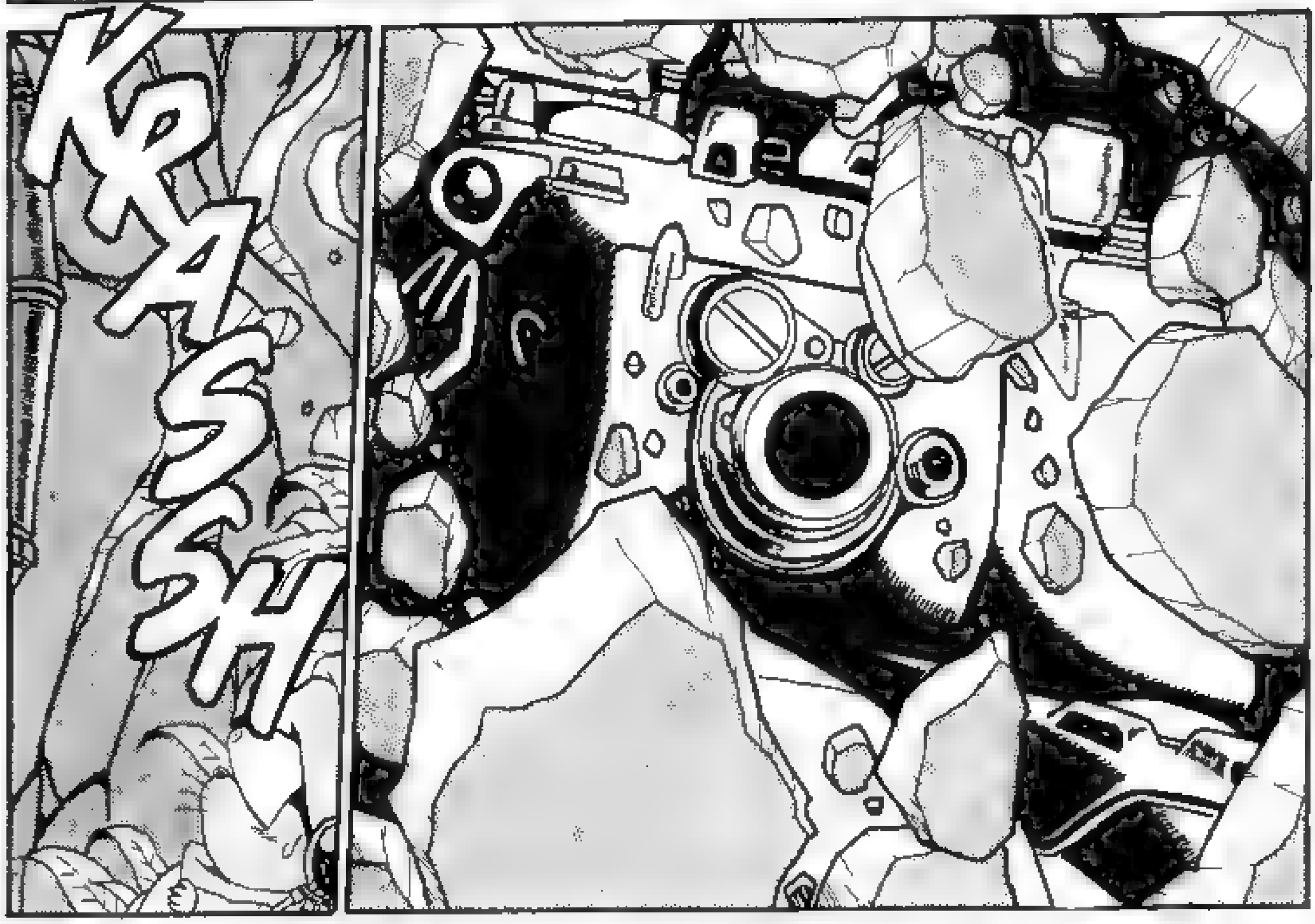
WHEN YOU SAID SHE'S IN "REAL TROUBLE NOW," YOU MEAN THOSE GUYS'LL BE BACK AGAIN?
IF THAT'S ALL, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...

WAY TO GO!
ENCORE !!
ALL RIGHT! YOU GUYS ARE GREAT!
YOU'RE SMOKING TONIGHT !
WE'RE REALLY GONNA KICK OUT THE JAMS, NOW!!

OKAY, GUYS! LET'S TEAR IT UP!

WHRAM

WHRAMMBBLE
!


SH

SKRASHOOM
EMBRAMBRAMB
THE PARTY'S OVER, YOU FOOLS !!
KRUNKLUNG

Y-YOU !!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING ?!

YOU'VE BEEN TRIED IN ABSENTIA FOR INCITING REBELLION AGAINST THE EMPIRE.. AND SENTENCED TO DEATH!

DATE OF EXECUTION, NOW!!

SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE EMPIRE !

I-IT'S THE IMPERIALS!! MIAN!! YOU GOTTA--

MIAN.. ?

HAH! YOU THINK I'M GOING TO LET YOU SCUM STOP MY SHOW?!

FROM THE TOP, BOYS !

YOU WANT TO SHOOT, THEN **SHOOT**, YOU COWARDS!

YAAAAYY!!

YAHOO!

WHAT TH-?!

SHE'S PRETTY GOOD, ISN'T SHE? MAKES YOU TAP YOUR FEET, HUH?

GET OFF MY TANK!!

PREPARE TO FIRE!

KCHAK
LIM!! LOOK OUT!

BROOOM
Krnk

AGH!!
MY GOD! YOU'RE- YOU'RE MIAN TORIS!!
DON'T MOVE!
PIPE DOWN, YOU IDIOTS! DOWN IN FRONT!!
OOOF!
NOW THEN, GENERAL-- WHY DON'T YOU AND I JUST SIT AND LISTEN TO LIM SING, EH?
Y-YES, MA'AM!
LIM! YOU'VE GOT A NEW FAN! TAKE IT AWAY!!
THANKS, MIAN!

BAR AOKI
CHEERS!
YAHAHA! WHAT A BLAST!
BEST GIG OF MY LIFE!!
LIMMM!
YAYY!
YOWW!
SO YOU'RE THE FAMOUS MIAN TORIS, HEH ?
SORRY I DIDN'T MAKE THE CONNECTION BEFORE.

SO WHAT'D YOU DO TO THAT POOR GENERAL?

TIED HIM IN A KNOT, DROPPED HIM IN THE TOILET AND FLUSHED HIM!

SHUDDUP WITH THAT HORRIBLE NOISE!!

THE IDEA IS TO SING, YOU NITWIT!

YOU'RE TURNING MY SINGLE MALT INTO A WHISKEY SOUR!

AW, YOU SHUT UP!

OH, YEAH?! WELL, WHY DON'T YOU SING YOURSELF, THEN, IF YOU THINK YOU'RE SO HOT!

LITTLE OL' ME?

THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK!

HMPH HMPH HMPH!

EHHEH

OH, MY GOD... WHAT A RACKET!
...!!
GEE, THIS SINGING STUFF IS EASY!!
OH. YES. OF C-COURSE.
I-I NEVER KNEW...HOW MUCH I LOVED MY HEARING..
MGN NK...!
SMAK SMAK

MIAN'S ACHILLES HYDROVALVE

OH, GROSS! WHAT'S WITH THIS TOWN?!

IT'S ALL COVERED WITH MOLD!

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT? IT'S RAINY SEASON, AFTER ALL...

YEAH, I KNOW, BUT ISN'T THIS A BIT *MUCH?*

HMM. .NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

OH, RATS...I JUST *HATE* RAIN...

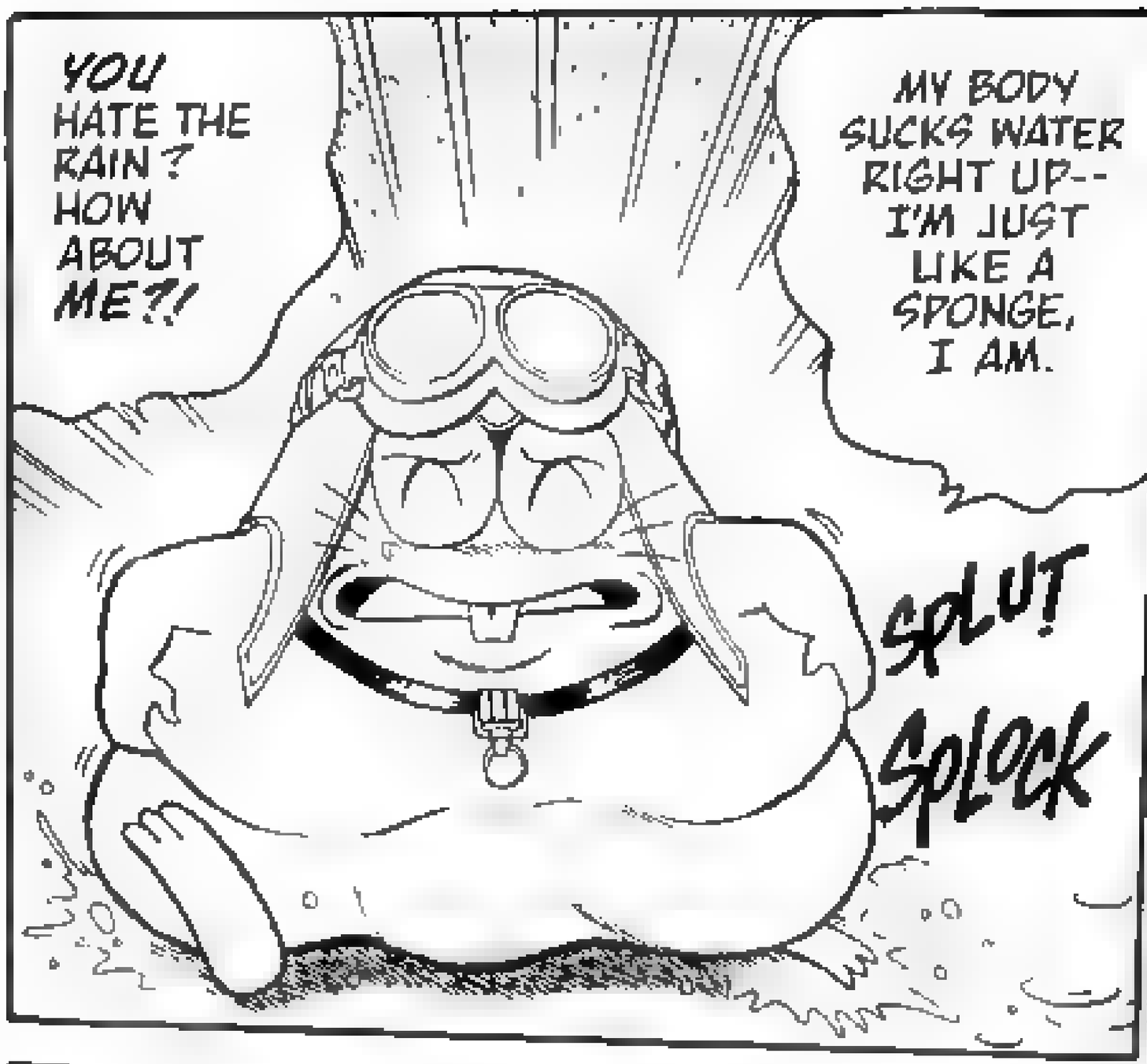
IT'S SUCH A DRAG... IT MAKES ME GLOOMY, GET'S ME DOWN, MAKES ME--

HEY! W-WAIT UP!!

SPLASH

SPLASH

UH-OH...


YOU HATE THE RAIN? HOW ABOUT ME?!
MY BODY SUCKS WATER RIGHT UP-- I'M JUST LIKE A SPONGE, I AM.
SPLUT SPLOCK

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT-- YOU'RE A SPONGE, FOR SURE.
Hmph!

WATCH YOUR TONGUE!
GGSHH
BLRK!

BEHAVE YOURSELF!
BLOOSH

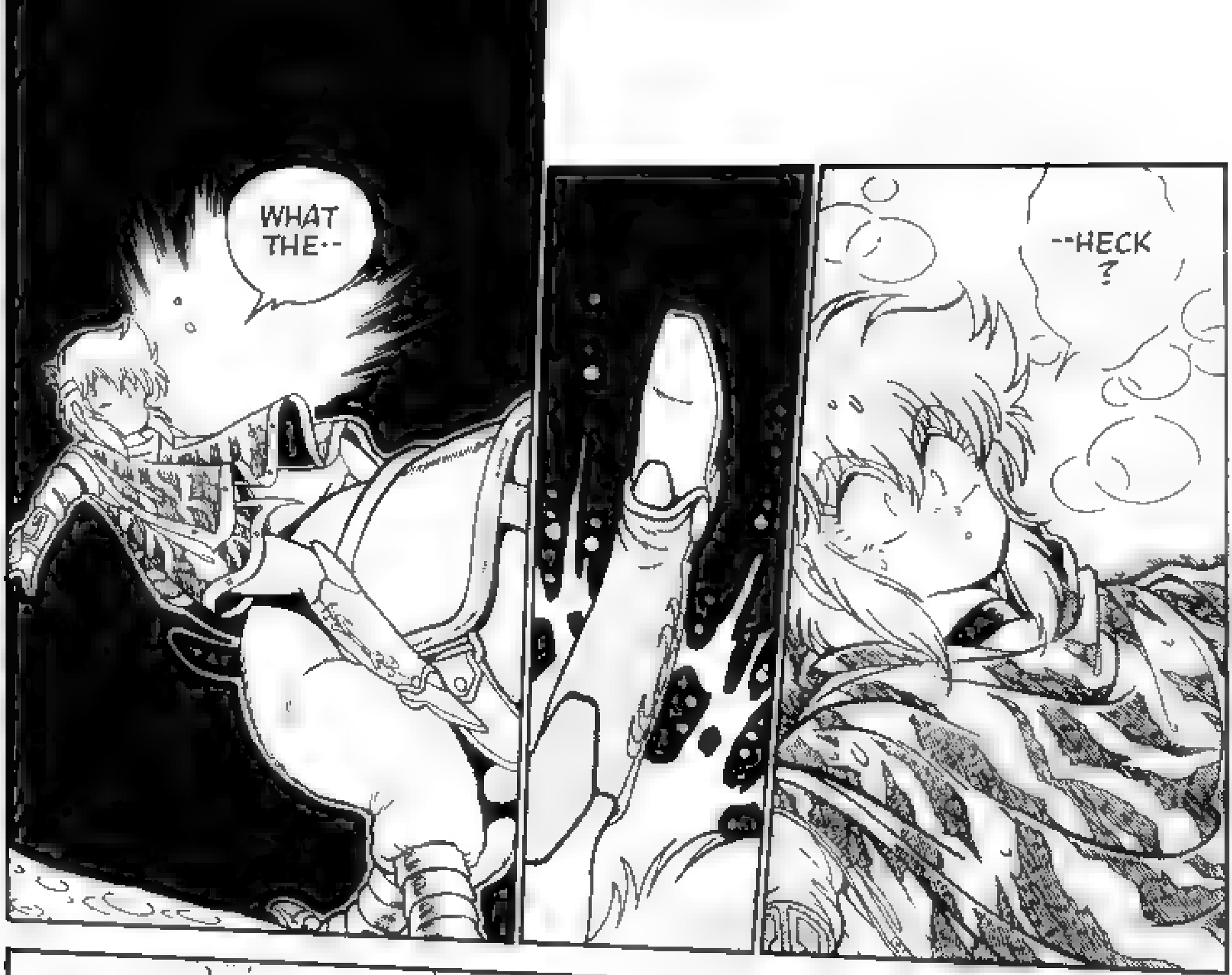
HEH HEH-HEH! YOU REALLY ARE A LITTLE SPONGE PUPPY!
OH, YEAH?! JUST BECAUSE I LIKE TO SOAK PEOPLE A BIT--

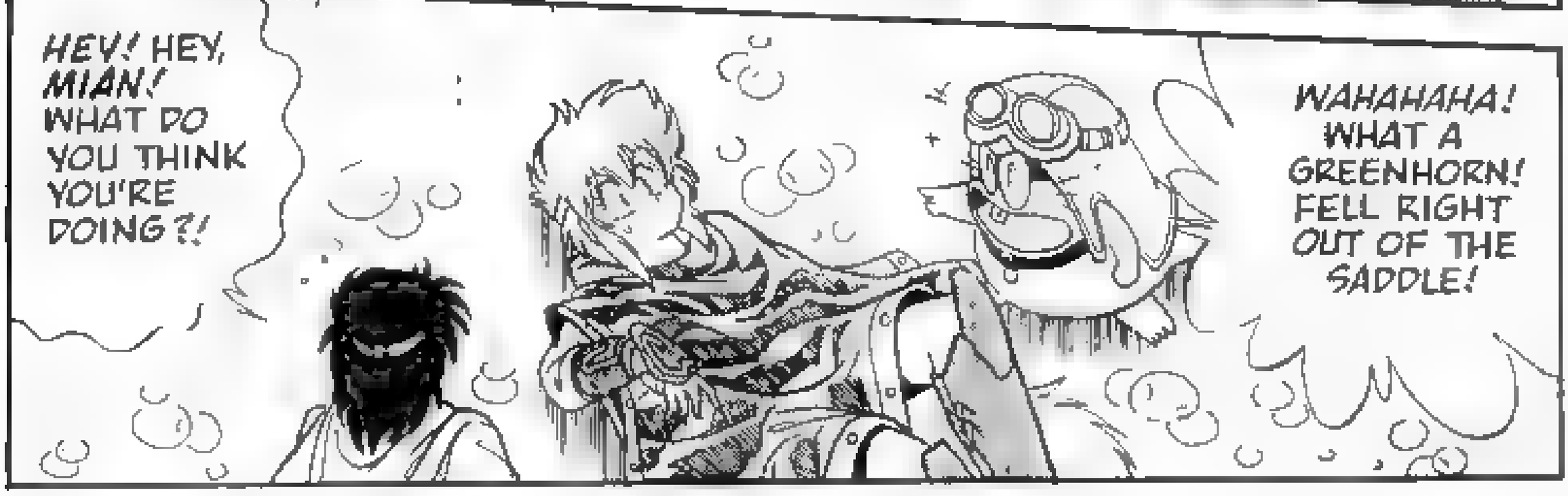
CUT THE CRAP!!
I'M PISSED OFF ENOUGH AS IS!

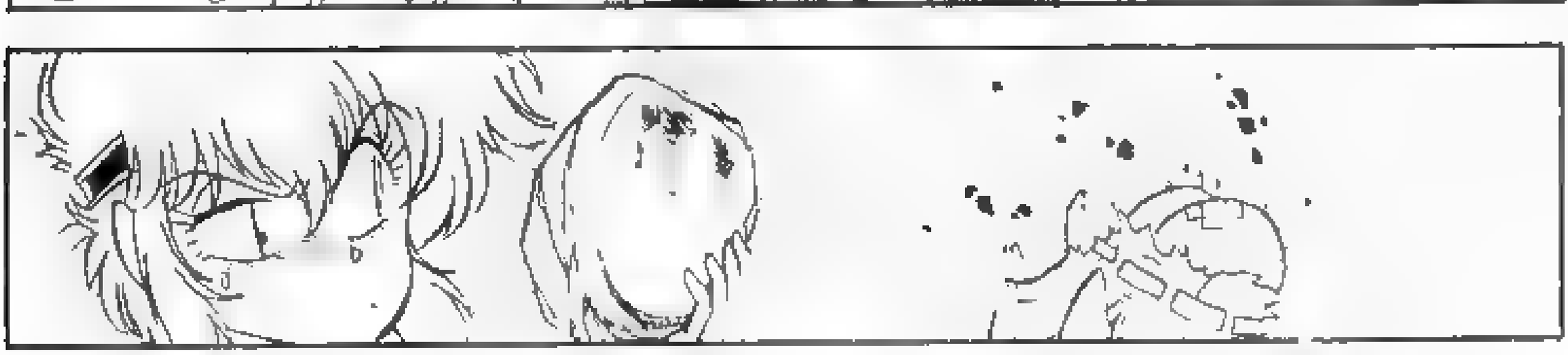
STOP ACTING LIKE IDIOTS AND FIND ME A PLACE TO SLEEP!

SOMEPLACE WITH A NICE BIG BATHTUB!

WHAT I WANT IS A COIN LAUNDROMAT. THIRTY MINUTES IN A DRYER WOULD BE JUST THE TICKET...


WHAT THE--
--HECK ?


HEY! HEY, MIAN! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
WAHAHAHA! WHAT A GREENHORN! FELL RIGHT OUT OF THE SADDLE!



WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU THAT TIRED?
NO... I-I JUST DIZZY.. I..
NOT GETTING RUSTY, ARE YOU?
YOU WANT TO DIE ?!

B-BUT... YOU'RE STILL KIND OF WOBBLY! ARE YOU *SURE* YOU'RE OKAY?

LOOK, JUST SHUT UP ALREADY! IT'S NOTHING!

SLAP

"NOTHING" MY ASS! YOU CAN'T EVEN WALK!

WHA-?

WHA-?

WHA-?

MY BODY...!

I C-CAN'T MOVE!

AIEEEEE! WATARU!! HELLLLP!

STOP SQUEALING! CAN'T YOU SEE MIAN IS--

I'M...I'M.. I'M MOLDING!

THAT'S RIGHT, HONEY. IT GOT REAL BAD ALL SUDDEN LIKE, NIGH ON A WEEK AGO.

MY LAND... NEVER SEEN A RAINY SEASON LIKE THIS BEFORE.

MUST BE THE CLIMATE'S CHANGING OR SOMETHING, MM?

NOTHIN' TO DO BUT PUT UP WITH IT, SWEETIE, AND WAIT 'TIL THE DRY SEASON COMES.

GUESS SO, HUH...

HERE'S YOUR ROOM. SEE FOR YOURSELF.

YEECH!

NOW DON'T YOU GO BEIN' LIKE THAT-- IT'S NOT GOING TO BITE YOU. ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT YOU WON'T EVEN NOTICE IT'S THERE.

HEY! DON'T STIR IT UP!

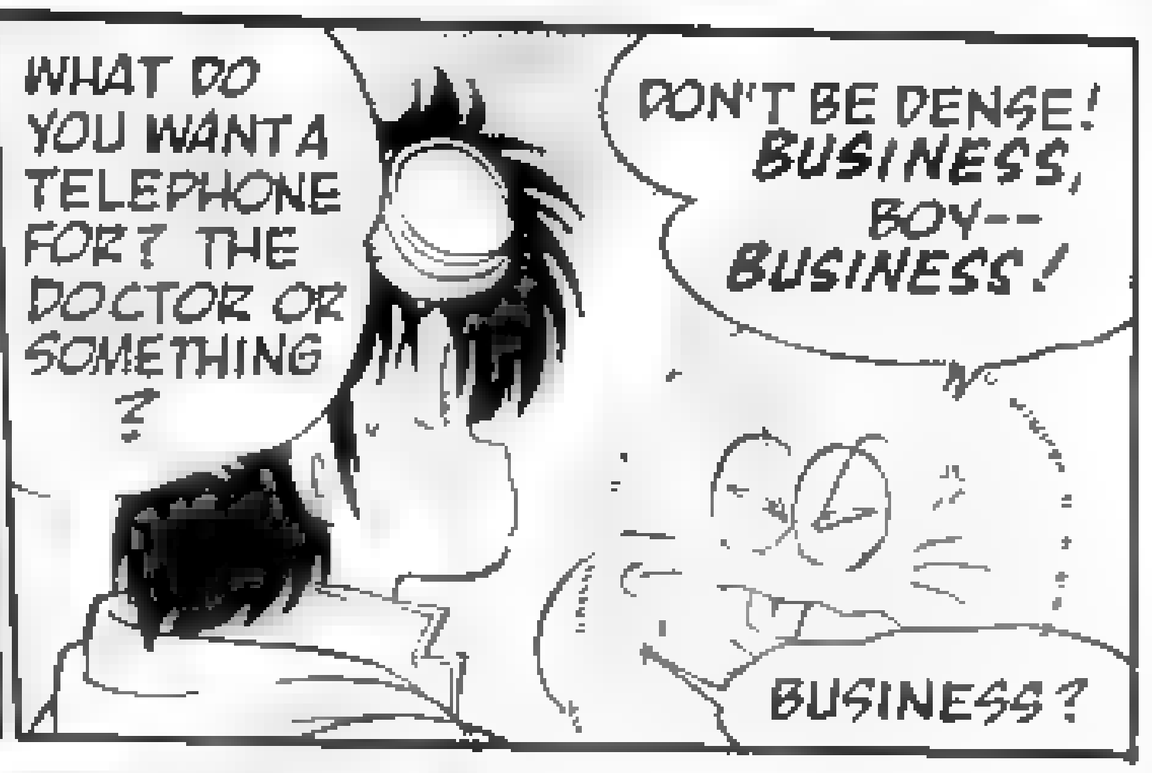
BY THE WAY-- YOU YOUNG FOLKS DON'T HAVE WATCHES OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT, DO YOU?
UH, SURE... I'VE GOT ONE.

JUST THOUGHT I SHOULD WARN YOU. THIS MOLD PLUGS UP ANY KIND OF MACHINERY IT GETS ON.

NO KIDDING! IT'S STOPPED!

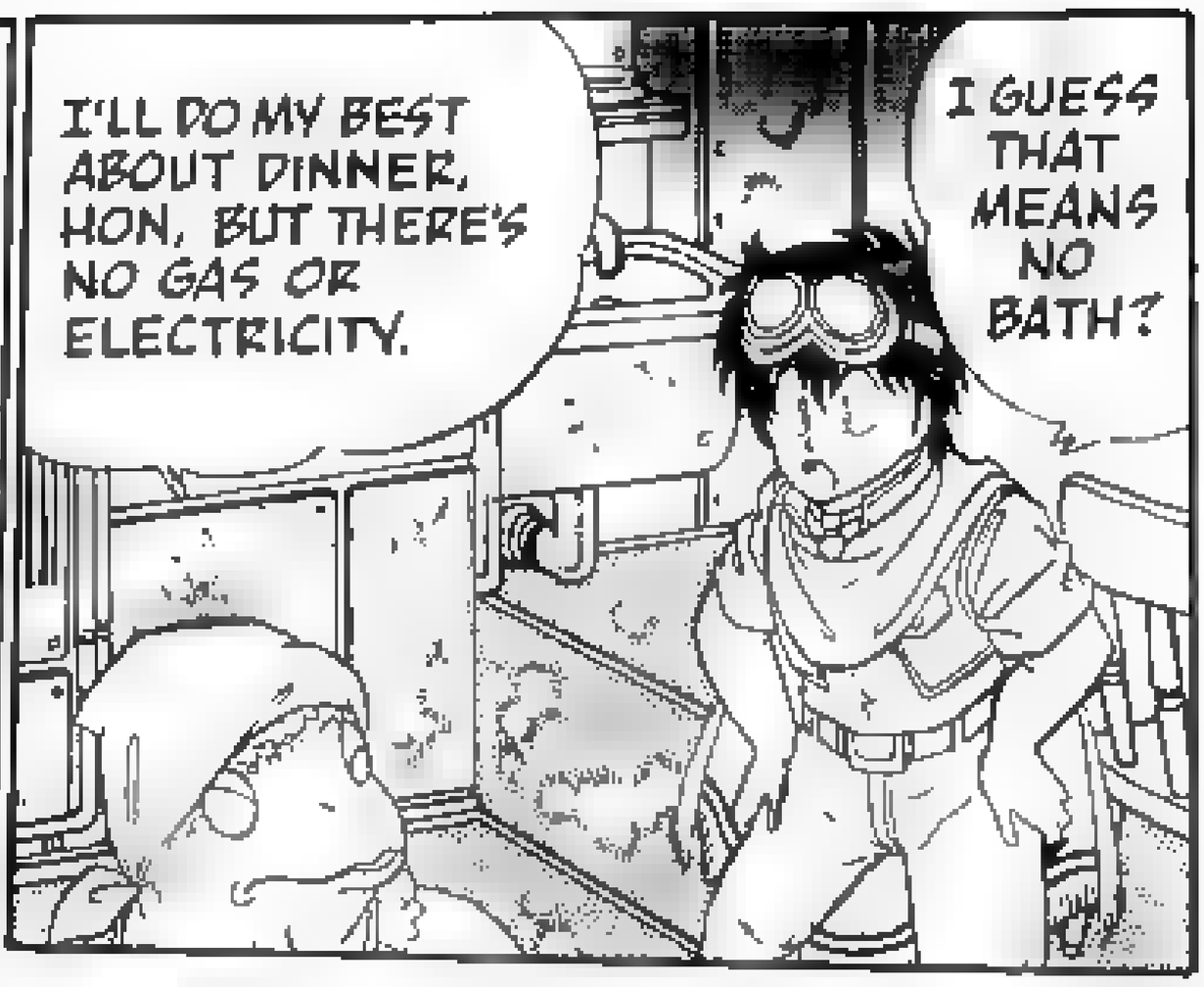
MAY I PRESUME, MADAM, THAT THE TELEPHONES ARE EQUALLY AFFECTED?
NO

UH...UH... YOU AND THIS MOLD STUFF REALLY GET ALONG, DON'T YOU...
BUG OFF!


WHAT DO YOU WANT A TELEPHONE FOR? THE DOCTOR OR SOMETHING?
DON'T BE DENSE! BUSINESS, BOY-- BUSINESS!
BUSINESS?

THERE'S MONEY IN THAT THERE MOLD, MY LAD!
WHEN PEOPLE ARE DOWN AND OUT, THAT'S WHEN YOU STICK IT TO 'EM! AKOGI BUSINESS THEORY 101!

GONNA RAKE IT IN, ME!
DO WHAT YOU LIKE! I PASS!


I'LL DO MY BEST ABOUT DINNER, HON, BUT THERE'S NO GAS OR ELECTRICITY.
I GUESS THAT MEANS NO BATH?

WELL, YOU CAN TAKE A BATH -- IF YOU LIKE SWIMMING IN PURE MOLD.
THANKS BUT NO THANKS.

HNNF!

HHRRNNFFFF!

FORGET IT..!

JEEZ .. YOU'RE GONNA GIVE YOURSELF A STRAIN DOIN' THAT.

SHUT UP!

DAMN IT ALL. THIS IS A MAJOR PROBLEM.

MAYBE YOU *SHOULD* SEE A DOCTOR, AFTER ALL?

IDIOT! I'M AN *ANDROID*, REMEMBER?

ANYWAY, I KNOW WHY THIS IS HAPPENING. IT'S THIS *MOLD*.

BACK THERE, IN THE STREET, I DREW IN A WHOLE LUNGFUL OF SPORES--

WHAT?!

YOU MEAN, UH...

...YOU GOT *MOLDY INNARDS*?

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE SO BADLY BUILT!

Wow!!

SHUT UP AND LET ME FINISH!!

THIS ISN'T *NORMAL MOLD*, WATARU.

HUH?

I'D GUESS IT'S A *BIOWEAPON*, ENGINEERED FOR ANDROIDS. DESIGNED TO PARALYZE A MECHANICAL BODY, SEE.

ACK! GLEEP!

IT WON'T AFFECT *YOU*, DUMMY!

I BET THEY'VE SEEDED EVERY TOWN THEY THOUGHT WE MIGHT PASS THROUGH WITH THIS STUFF.

AFTER ALL, IT'S THE RAINY SEASON. A LITTLE EXTRA MOLD WON'T MAKE PEOPLE SUSPICIOUS.

BUT WHY ON EARTH...

TO TAKE ME *ALIVE*, THAT'S WHY.

OTHERWISE, WHY GO TO ALL THIS TROUBLE...?

HMMM..

EH HEH

HEH HEH

WHAT ARE YOU LEERING ABOUT?

HEH HEH HEH...

SO, LIKE, YOU CAN'T MOVE A MUSCLE, EH?

YOU REALLY CAN'T MOVE AT ALL?

EVEN IF I DO... THIS?

!!

OR THIS...?!

WATARU! YOU--

OR MAYBE EVEN... THIS?

HEY!

POKE POKE

YOU CAN'T RESIST AT ALL ?!?

WHY, YOU LITTLE--

HEH HEH...

I'VE WAITED.. GOD, HOW I HAVE WAITED FOR THIS DAY...

AT LAST!! I STAND TRIUMPHANT OVER THE HELPLESS BODY OF MIAN TORIS !!!

....

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING ?!

YOU TOUCH ME AND I'LL SQUEEZE THAT COLLAR OF YOURS UNTIL YOU SQUEAK!

FOOLISH GIRL...

IF THIS MOLD'S SCREWED UP *YOUR* MACHINERY...

IT'S ALSO SCREWED UP THE *COLLARS!!*

=GULP= UH-OH... YOU FIGURED IT OUT, HUH...

OH, YES INDEEDY. YES, YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN, WORKING ME TO THE BONE ALL THESE MONTHS!

YOU'VE BEATEN ME, ABUSED ME...

HEY! HOLD ON! WAIT! THIS IS COWARDLY!

COWARDLY?! DAMN *RIGHT* IT'S COWARDLY!! AT LAST, *REVENGE*-- SWEET, COWARDLY REVENGE!!

HEY! OW! OOF! WHUD

STOP! NO! DON'T!! KEEP YOUR HANDS OFF ME, YOU IDIOT!!

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THIS, WATARU, YOU ARE WRONG! DEAD WRONG!

CAN'T HEAR YOU, CAN'T HEAR YOU!

WHATCHA GONNA DO TO ME, RUSTBUCKET ?!

I'LL TEAR YOUR HEART OUT FOR THIS !!

I'M OUTTA HERE, BABY!

WAIT! COME BACK HERE!

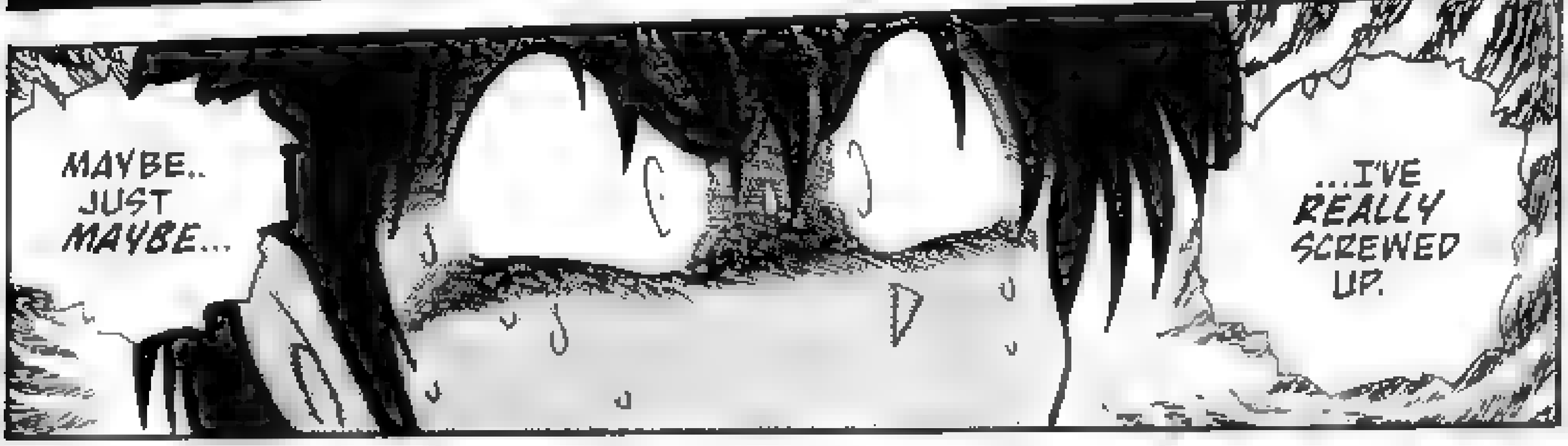
YA HA HA! WHAT A CHARGE !

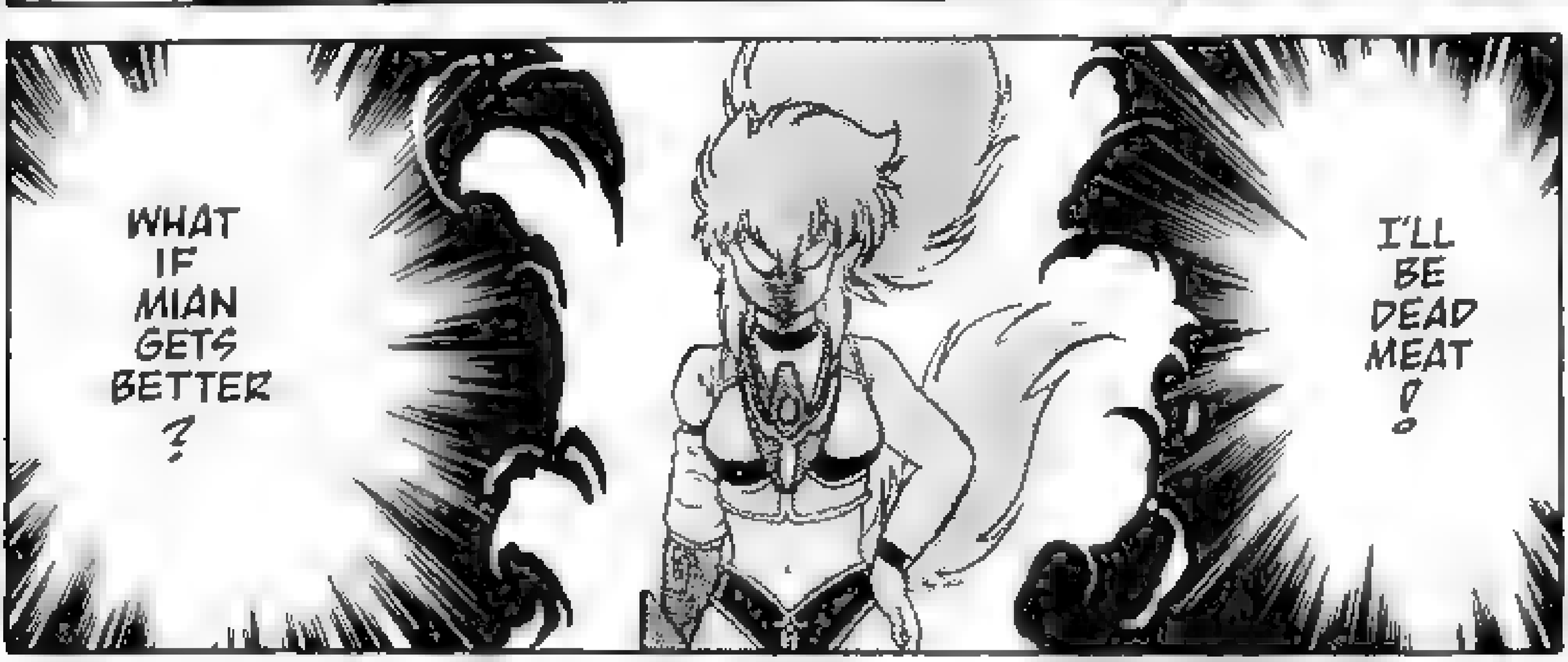
I HAVEN'T FELT THIS GOOD IN AGES!

FINALLY... AFTER A WHOLE YEAR OF ABUSE AND SUFFERING AS HER DOG! I'M FREE, A FREE CHARACTER !!

NO MORE STRESS! !

NO MORE FRUSTRATION !





OH, MAN-- THIS IS REALLY BAD...

EVEN IF I RUN AWAY, SHE'LL TRACK ME TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH..

OH, SHIT... FREE FOR WHAT? TO SPEND MY WHOLE LIFE ON THE RUN?

HEAVE-HO!

WHAT THE HECK ?!

UPSY DAISY!

AKOGI

AH, THERE YOU ARE! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR HOURS!

HERE YOU GO, MAC-- THE GOODS YOU ORDERED. CHECK 'EM OUT, SIGN HERE.

OGI

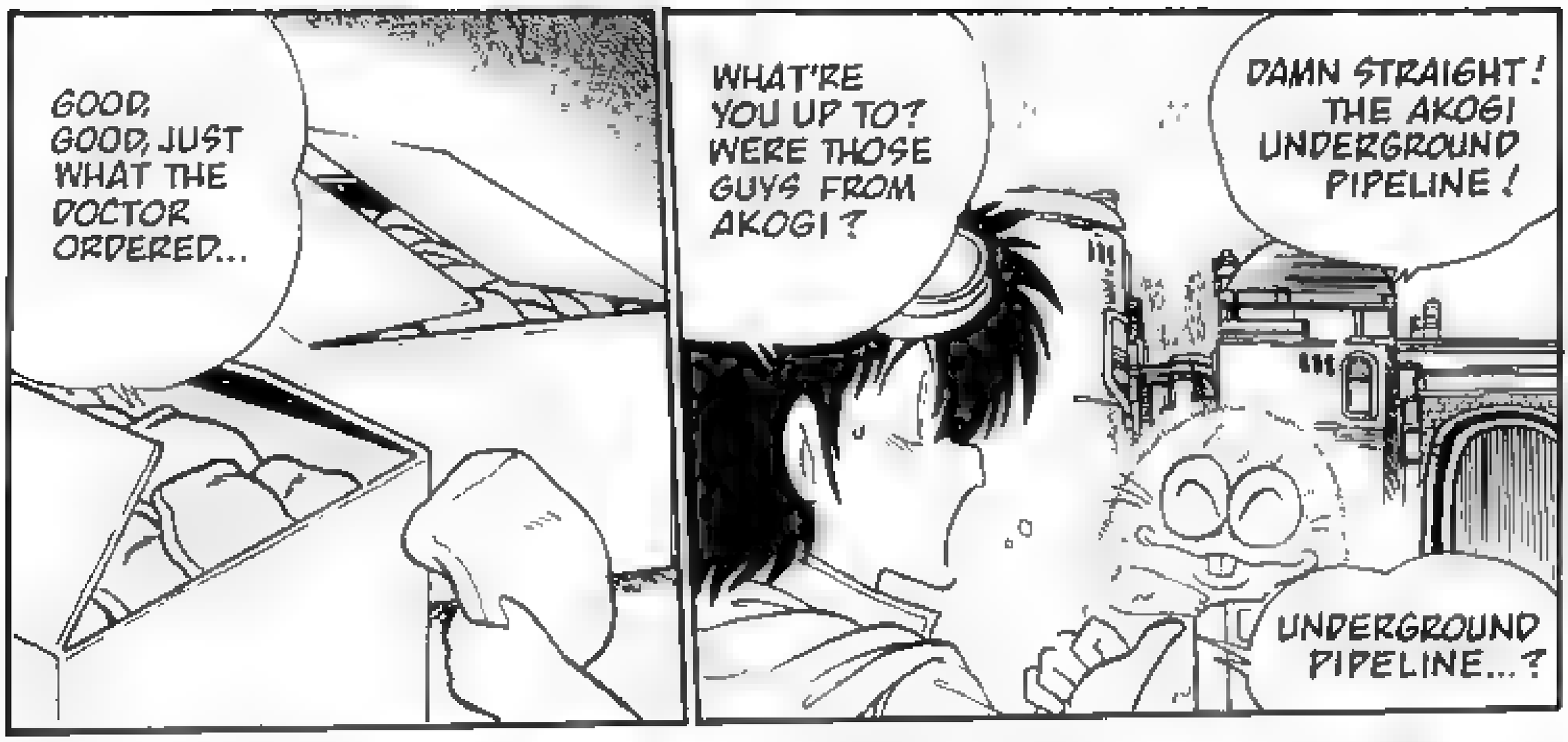
WHATCHA UP TO THIS TIME?

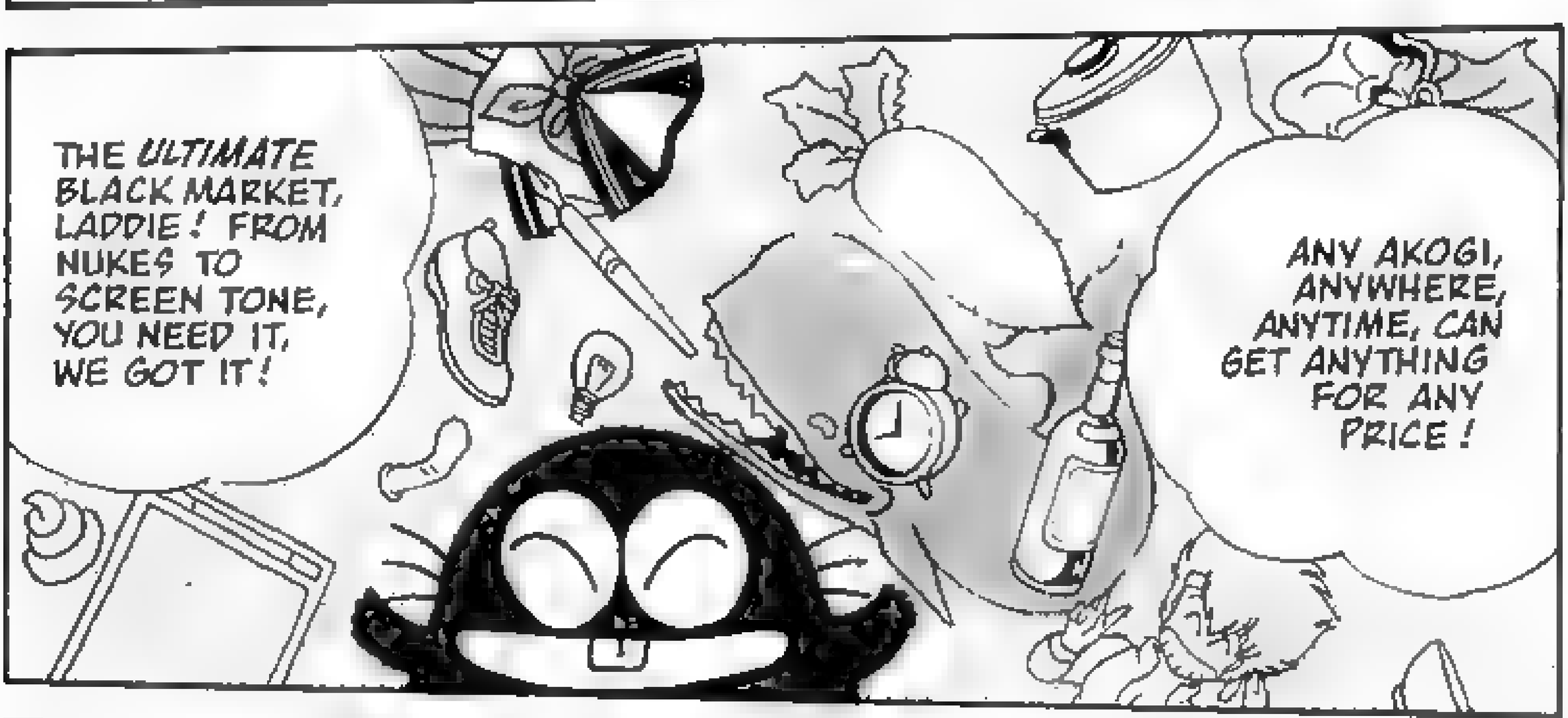
HEH-HEH... GOOD WORK, BOYS.

BABO ?!

WELL, SEE YOU LATER. RAKE IT IN, MAC.

LEAVE IT TO ME!

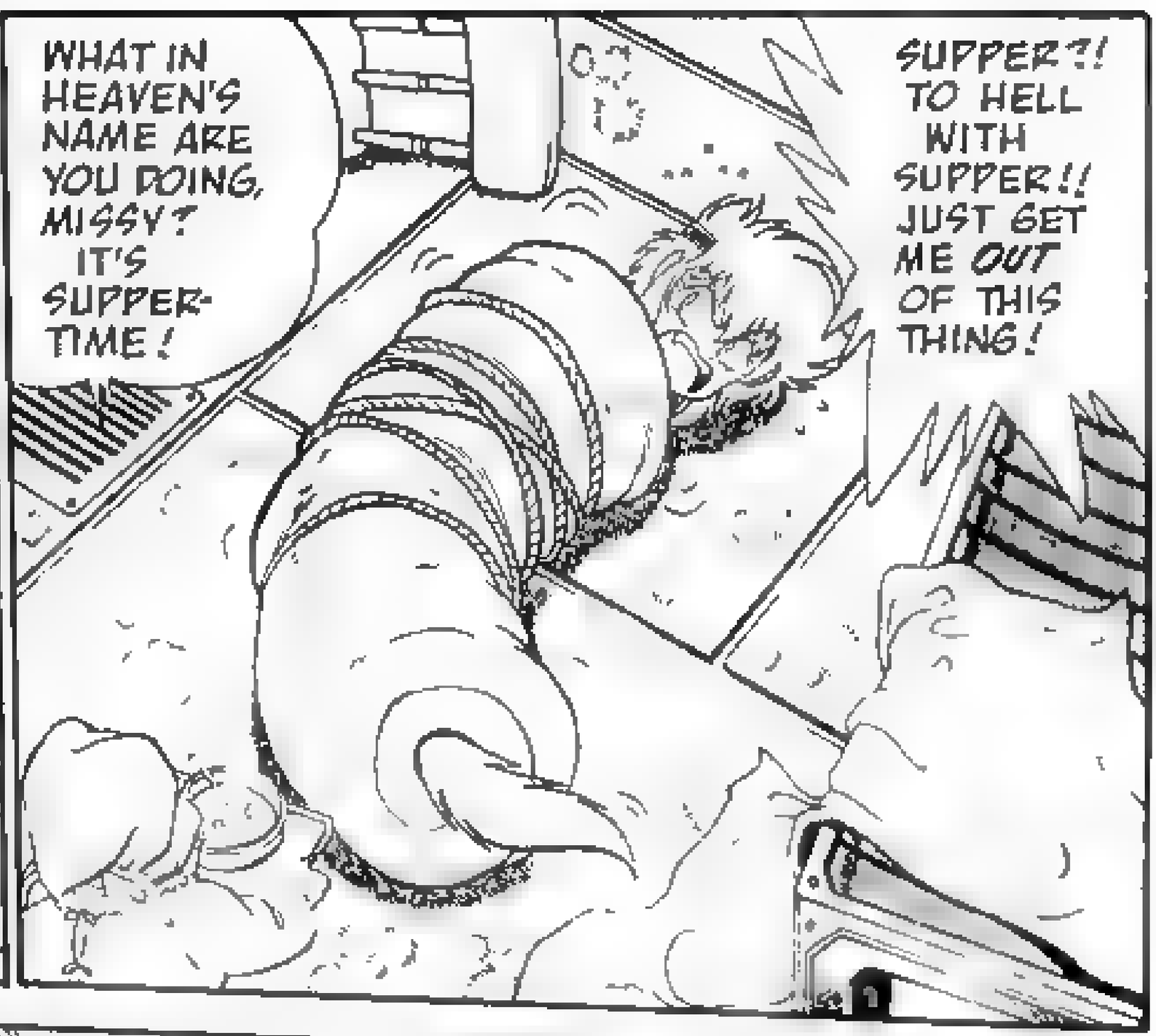

GOOD, GOOD, JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED...
WHAT'RE YOU UP TO? WERE THOSE GUYS FROM AKOGI?
DAMN STRAIGHT! THE AKOGI UNDERGROUND PIPELINE!
UNDERGROUND PIPELINE...?


THE ULTIMATE BLACK MARKET, LADDIE! FROM NUKES TO SCREEN TONE, YOU NEED IT, WE GOT IT!
ANY AKOGI, ANYWHERE, ANYTIME, CAN GET ANYTHING FOR ANY PRICE!

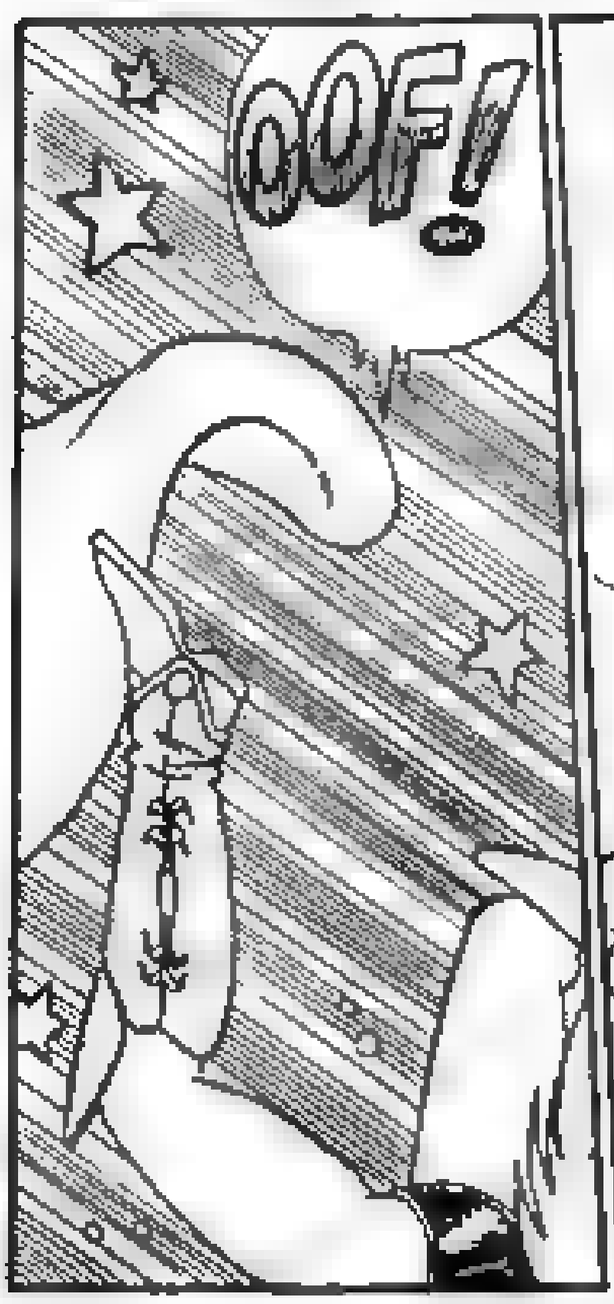
WOW...I DIDN'T KNOW YOU GUYS WERE SO ORGANIZED.
WHAT'D YOU EXPECT? I GOT IN WITH THEM, AND HERE IT IS.
I'VE POURED EVERY LAST CENT OF MY SAVINGS INTO THESE BABIES.

'COURSE, SOME OF OUR MERCHANDISE IS A LITTLE SHY ON QUALITY...
SO WHAT DID YOU GET..?
MOLD MAGIC™
"MOLD MAGIC™"?

GOOD GRACIOUS ME!


WHAT IN HEAVEN'S NAME ARE YOU DOING, MISSY? IT'S SUPPER-TIME!
SUPPER?! TO HELL WITH SUPPER!! JUST GET ME OUT OF THIS THING!

NOW I'VE GOT A HEART OF GOLD, YOUNG LADY, BUT I WON'T HAVE YOU PLAYING WITH THE MATTRESSES LIKE THAT!
YOU THINK I'M DOING THIS FOR FUN?!


OOF!

I TELL YOU, YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY GET THE STRANGEST IDEAS! MY LAND!
WATARU, YOU LITTLE SCUMBAG...

YOU'RE MINCEMEAT, RUNT!!

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF PEOPLE WHEN THEY'RE DOWN!

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS! *IN SPADES!!*

DAMN YOU, WATARU! I'LL FIND YOU EVEN IF I HAVE TO--

OH, MISSY, DO BE CAREFUL ON THE...

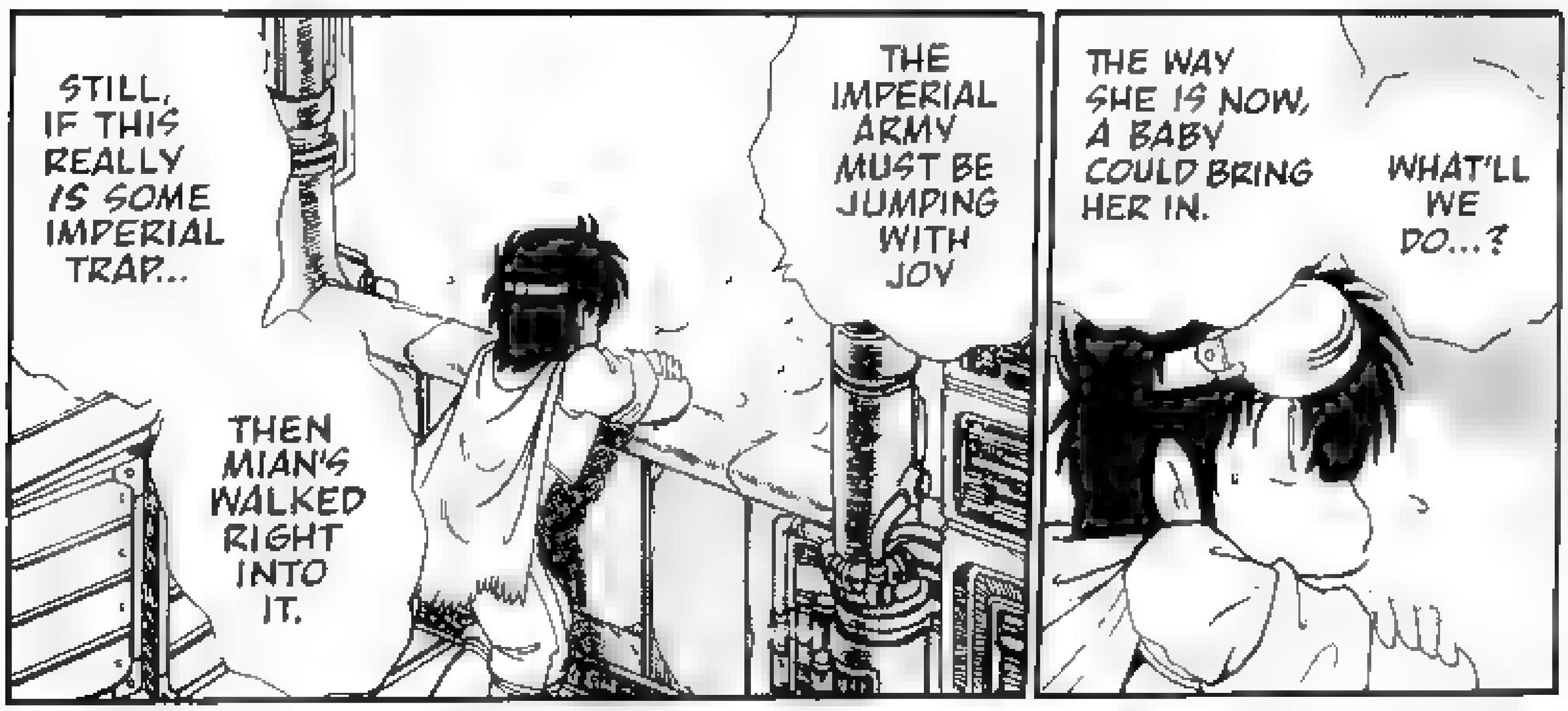
END SKRASSH WHAM

...STAIRS.

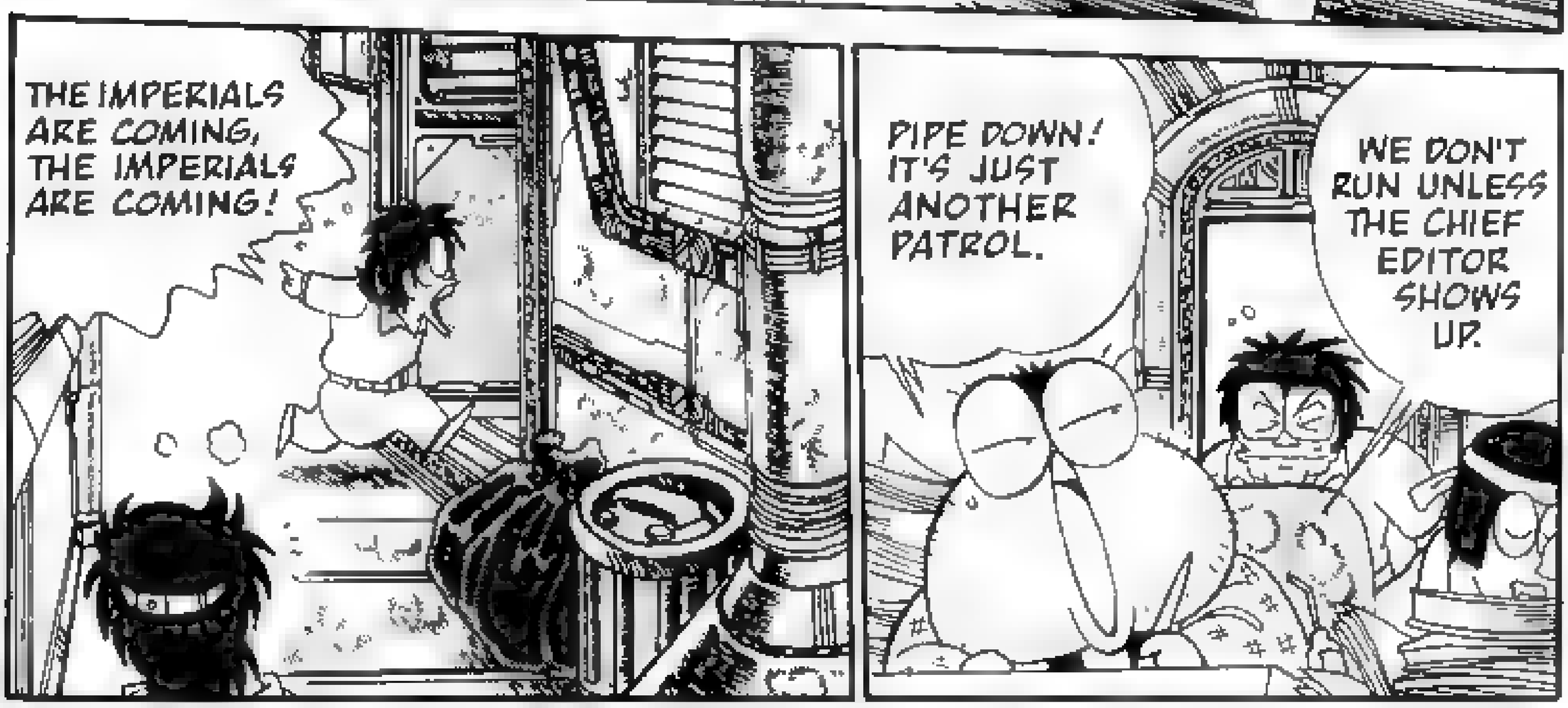
OH, *MAN...*

MAYBE I SHOULD GO BACK, APOLOGIZE. BUT IT'S TOO LATE TO SAY I WAS JUST JOKING...

AARG! YOU STUPID *BLOCKHEAD!* NEXT TIME *THINK* BEFORE YOU ACT!


STILL, IF THIS REALLY IS SOME IMPERIAL TRAP...
THEN MIAN'S WALKED RIGHT INTO IT.
THE IMPERIAL ARMY MUST BE JUMPING WITH JOY
THE WAY SHE IS NOW, A BABY COULD BRING HER IN.
WHAT'LL WE DO...?

NOW JUST HOLD ON THERE!
SINCE WHEN DO I HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT CRAZY BROAD?!


THE IMPERIALS ARE COMING, THE IMPERIALS ARE COMING!
PIPE DOWN! IT'S JUST ANOTHER PATROL.
WE DON'T RUN UNLESS THE CHIEF EDITOR SHOWS UP.

OH, MAN...

STEP RIGHT UP, STEP RIGHT UP, LADIES AAAND GENTS!!

HERE AT LAST, SUPER AKOGI MOLD MAGIC™! THE WORLD'S STRONGEST DEHYDRATION AGENT!!

HUH ?

ONE SHAKE OF MOLD MAGIC™, AND YOUR MILDEW PROBLEMS ARE HISTORY!

DRY CLOTHES, DRY HOMES, JUST 750 D.D. A PACK !

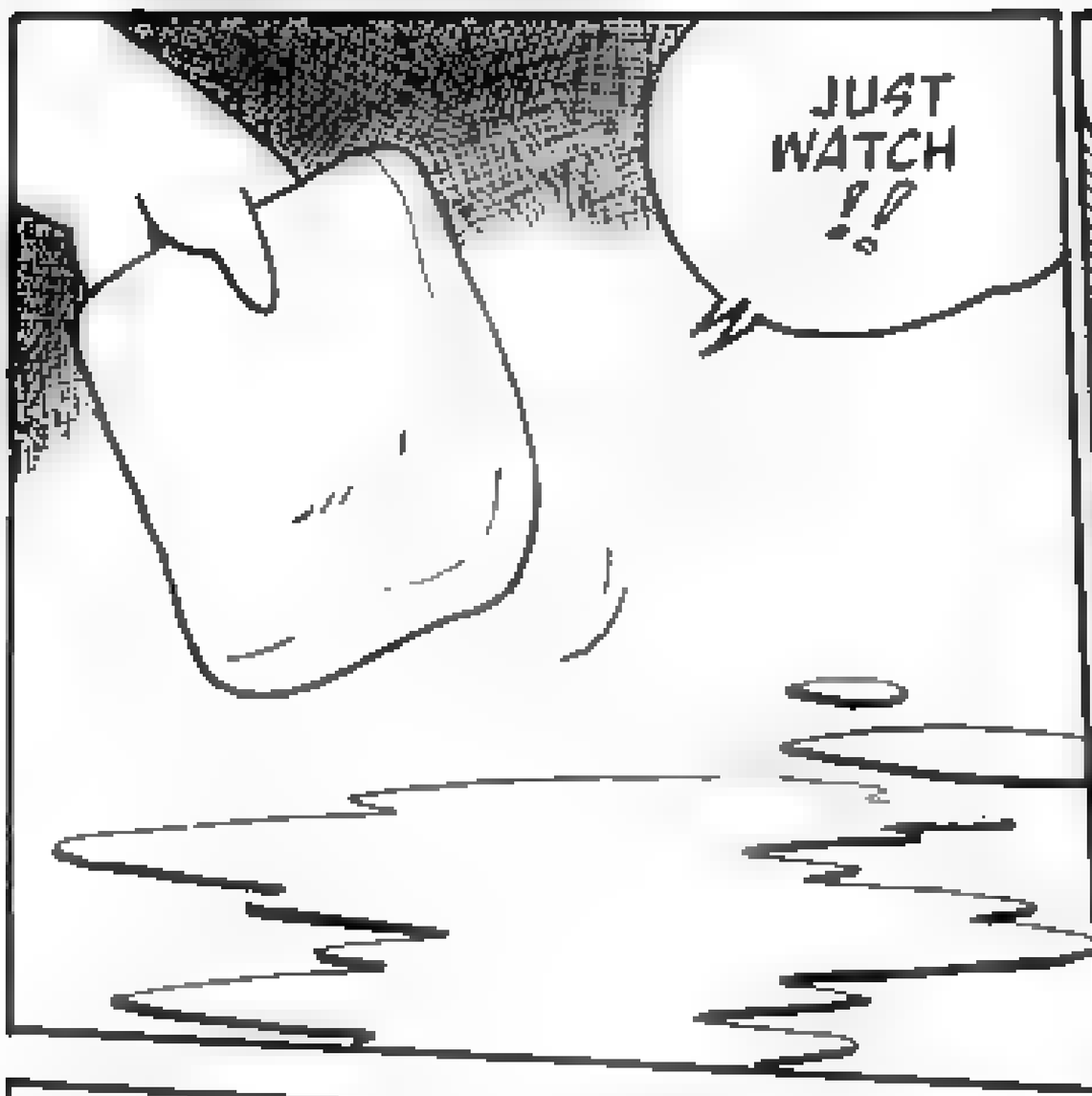
SOUNDS LIKE BULLSHIT TO ME! THERE'S ALL KINDS OF JUNK ON THE MARKET.

WHO SAYS THIS IS BETTER'N THE OTHER CRAP ?!

AH, MY DEAR MAN, YOU ARE MISINFORMED! MOLD MAGIC™ GOES TO THE SOURCE!

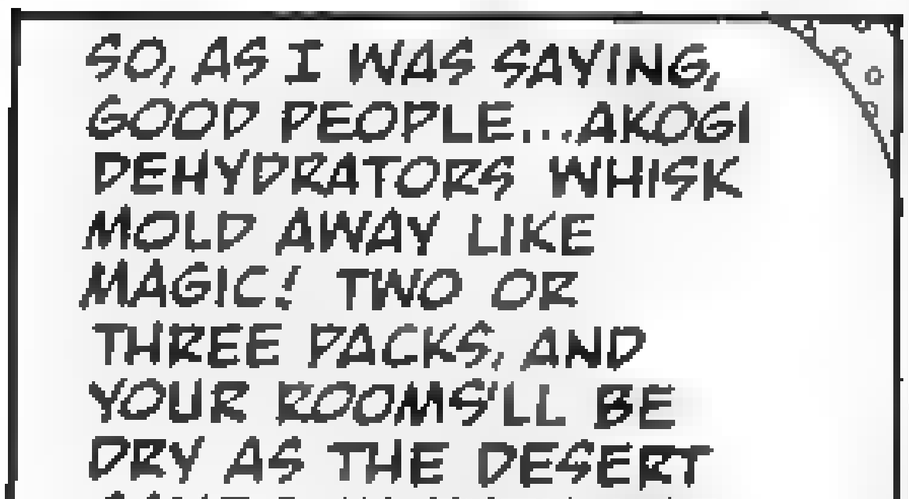
MILDEW BREEDS IN THE FOUL DANKNESS !

BUT MOLD MAGIC™ BURNS AWAY MOISTURE LIKE A FLAMETHROWER !!


JUST WATCH !!

SHIT!

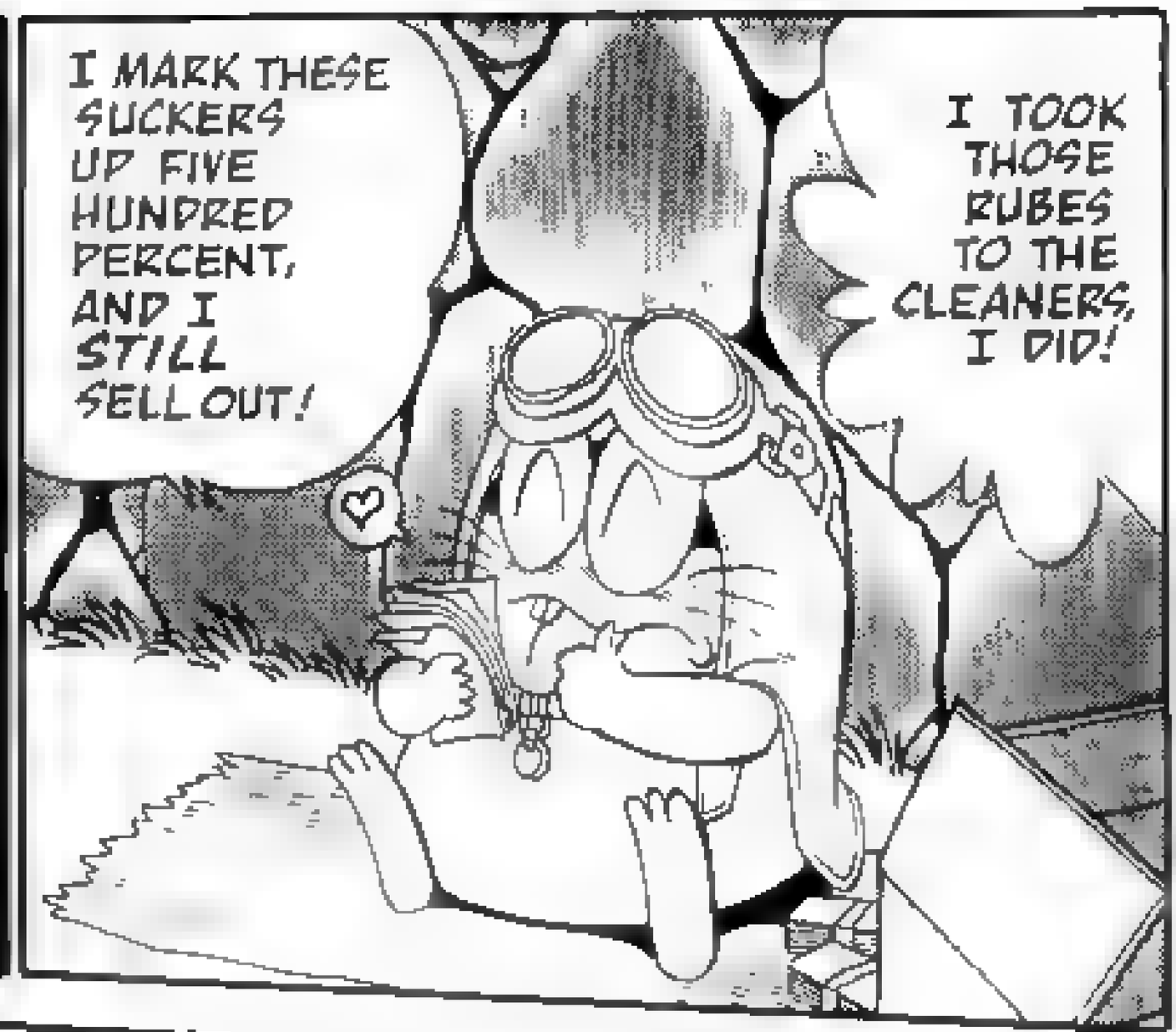
OOH!
HOLY SHIT!


SO, AS I WAS SAYING, GOOD PEOPLE...AKOGI DEHYDRATORS WHISK MOLD AWAY LIKE MAGIC! TWO OR THREE PACKS, AND YOUR ROOMS'LL BE DRY AS THE DESERT SANDS, IN EVEN THE WORST OF THE WET SEASON. SO--WHO'S THE FIRST?!

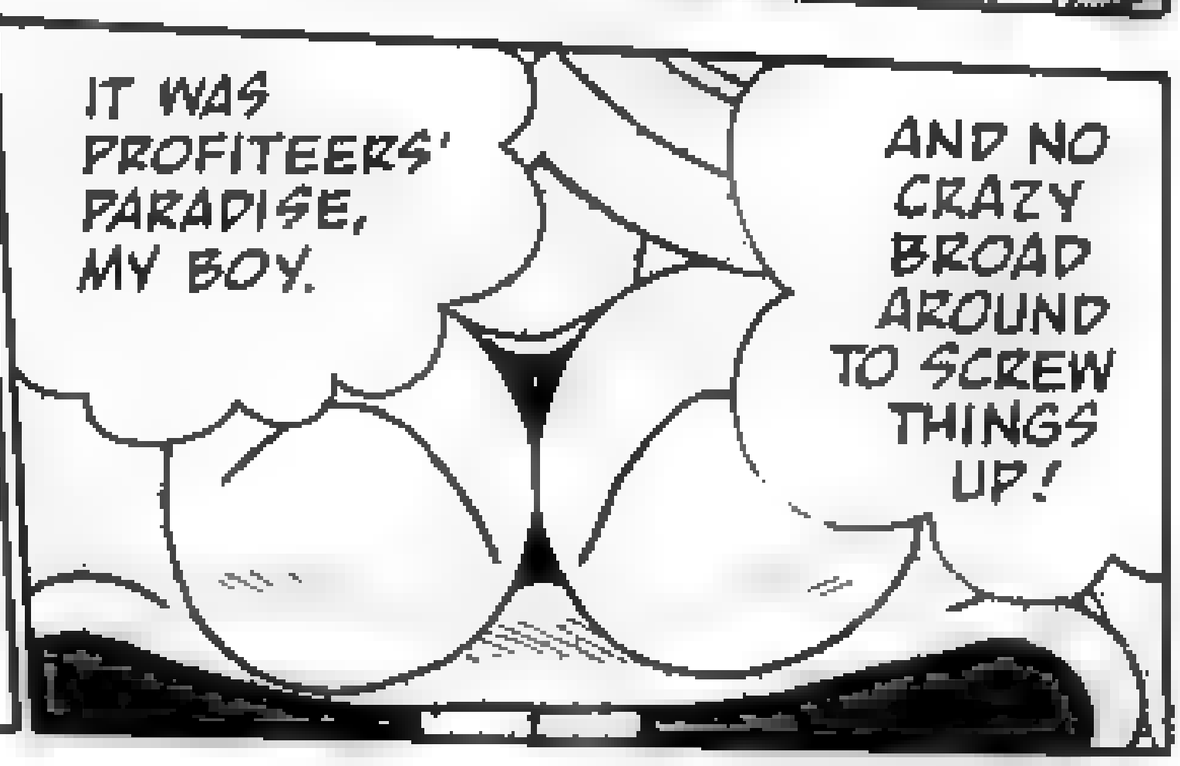
YOU SOLD ME, BUDDY! IF IT KILLS THIS MOLD, IT'S ALL RIGHT BY ME!
ME, TOO!

THANK'EE, THANK'EE, COME AGAIN!
HEY, THERE, TYKE! DON'T EAT IT! STUNTS YOUR GROWTH!

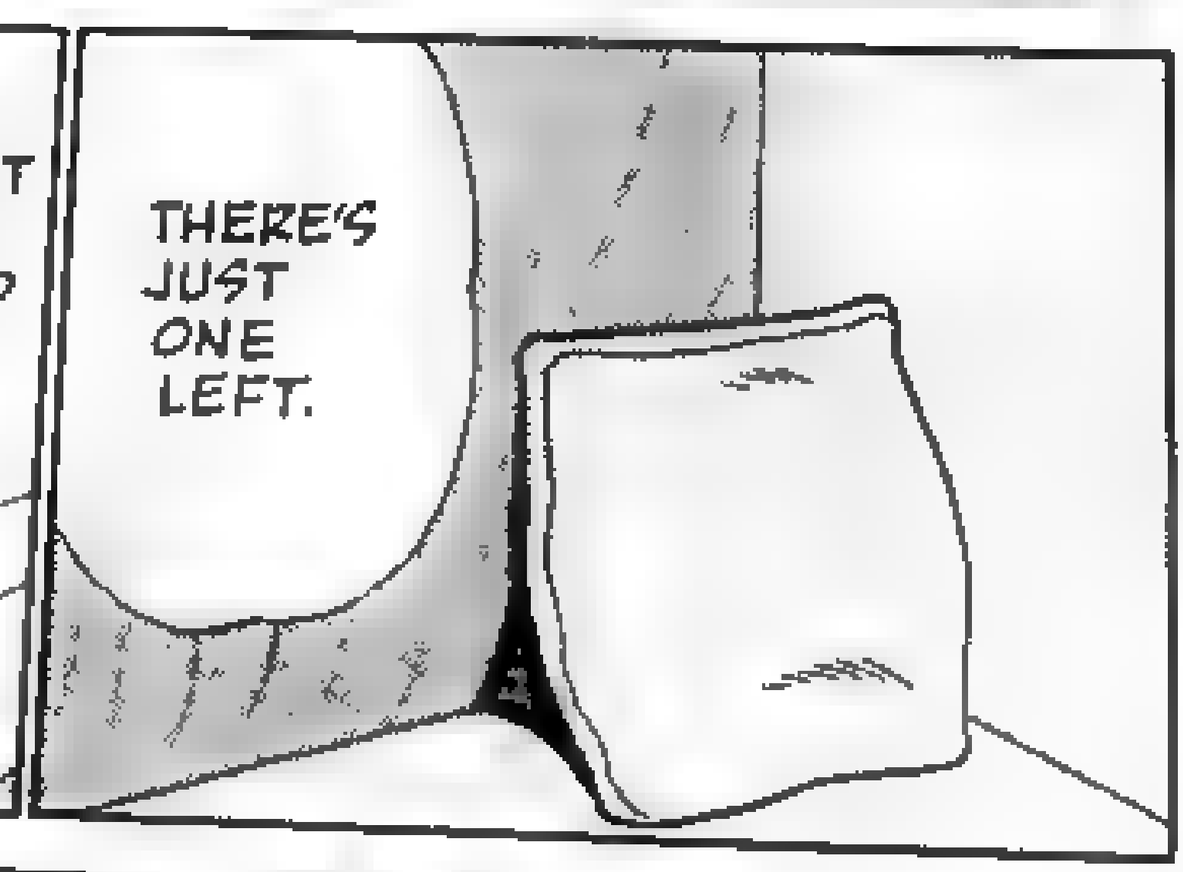
HYA HYA HYA HYA HAHAHA!!


I MARK THESE SUCKERS UP FIVE HUNDRED PERCENT, AND I STILL SELL OUT!
I TOOK THOSE RUBES TO THE CLEANERS, I DID!

HEY, YOU DID OKAY FOR YOURSELF, I SEE!
JUST LOOK AT THIS BUNDLE, WATARU!


IT WAS PROFITEERS' PARADISE, MY BOY.
AND NO CRAZY BROAD AROUND TO SCREW THINGS UP!

UH, YEAH... UH, BY THE WAY--ANY OF THAT STUFF LEFT??
WHAT, YOU WANT SOME, TOO, OLD PAL?


THERE'S JUST ONE LEFT.

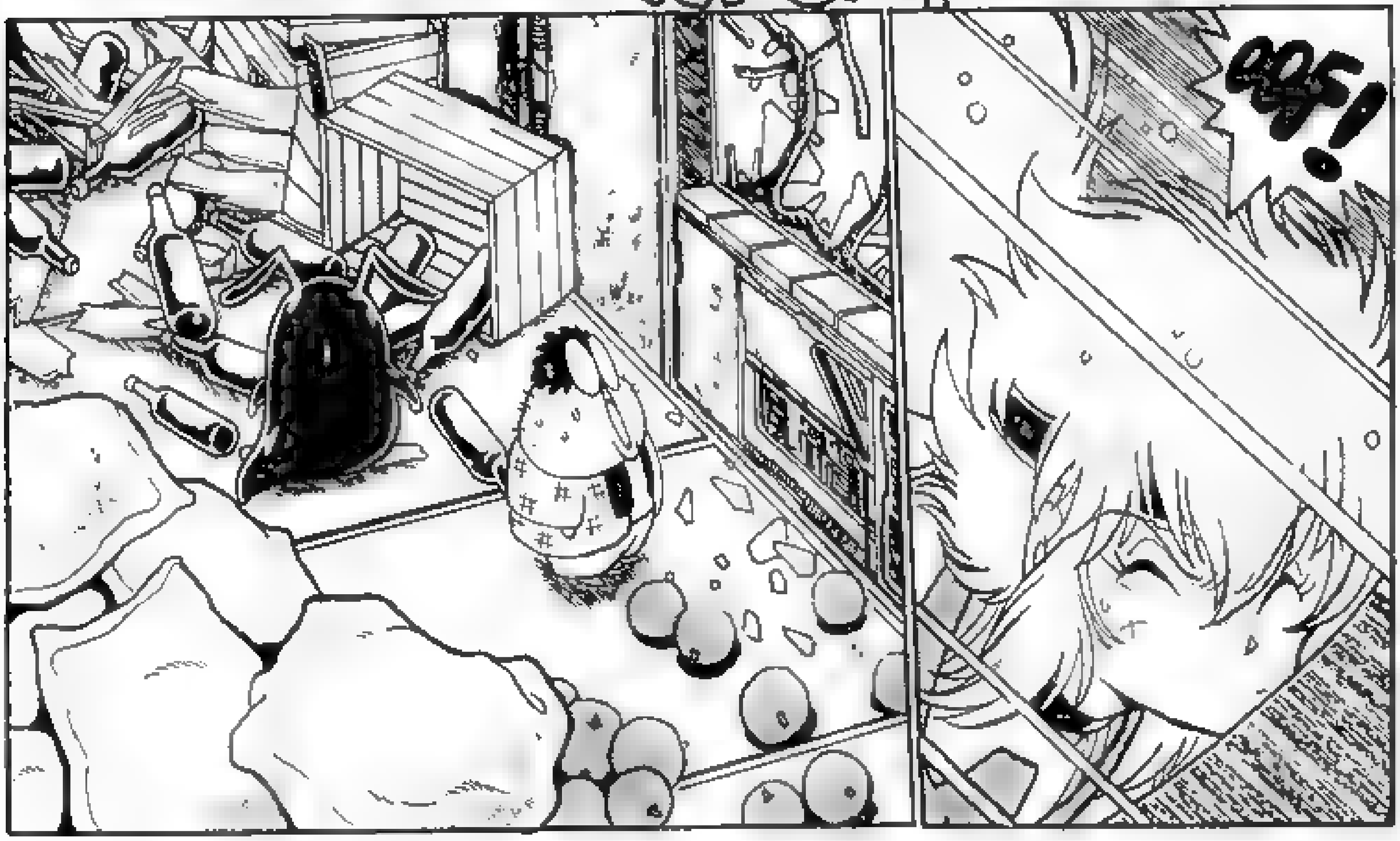
GREAT! LET ME HAVE IT!
MY PLEASURE! 750 D.D., CHUM!

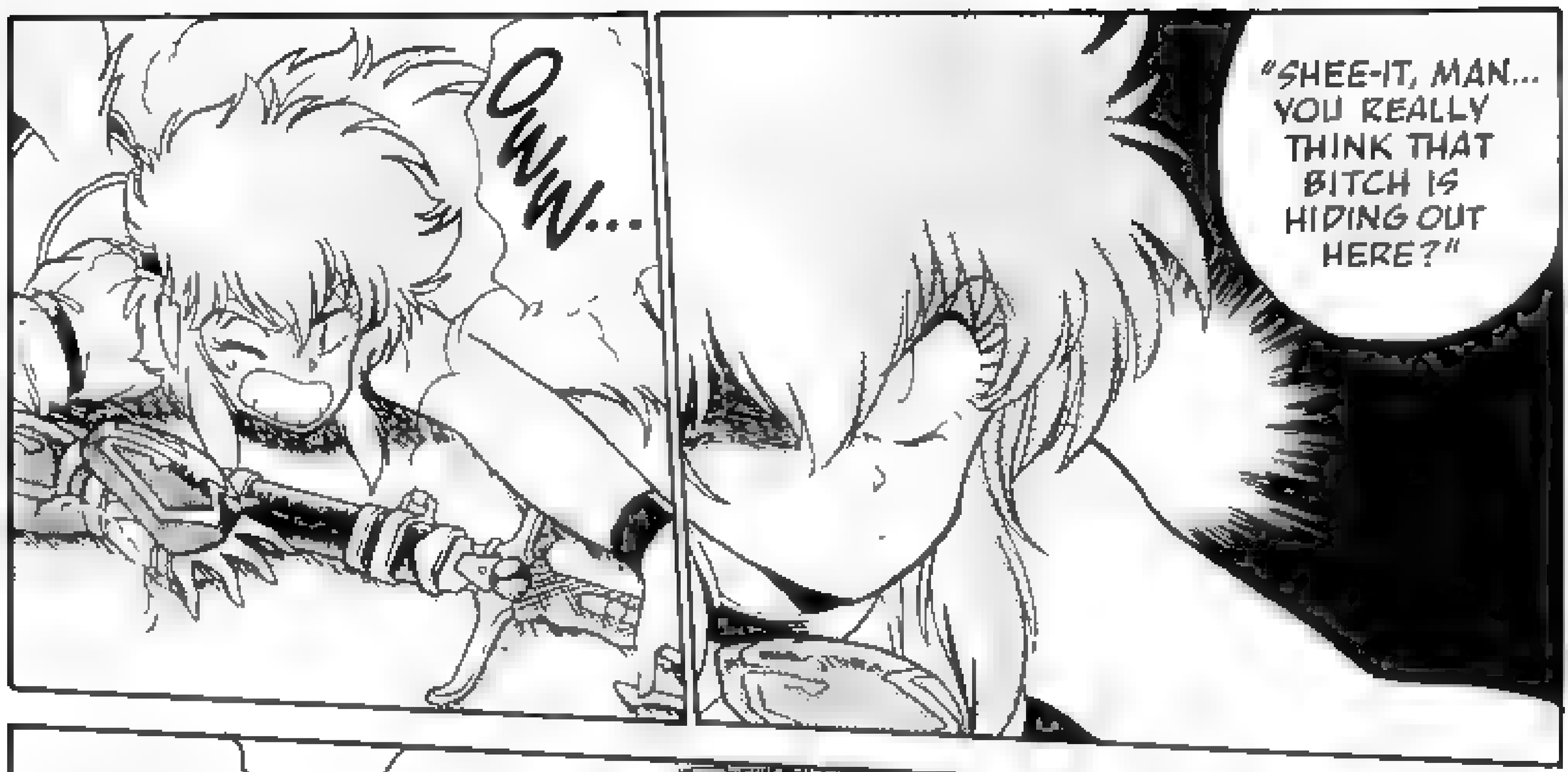
YOU LITTLE SLUG! I'M YOUR PARTNER, DAMMIT! YOU MEAN I GOT TO PAY?!
A CUSTOMER IS A CUSTOMER...

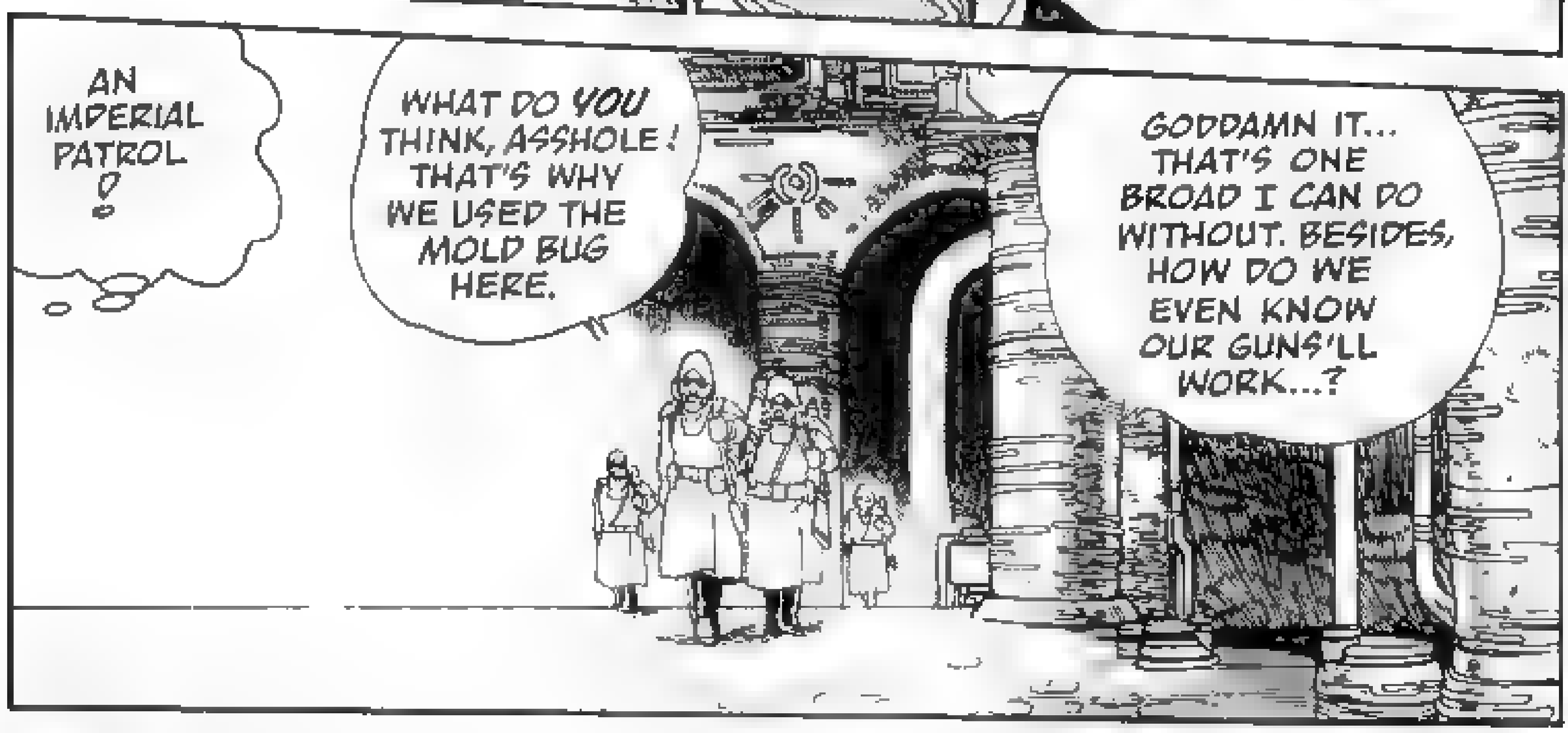
YOU KNOW I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF CASH!!
OH, I'M SO SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW. I DON'T DO BUSINESS WITH PAUPERS.

I SAID HAND IT OVER, YOU GOUGING LITTLE RATBAG!
NO, NO, A THOUSAND TIMES NO!!

EEK!
KIRAK'S WHUMP
OWW!


OOF!

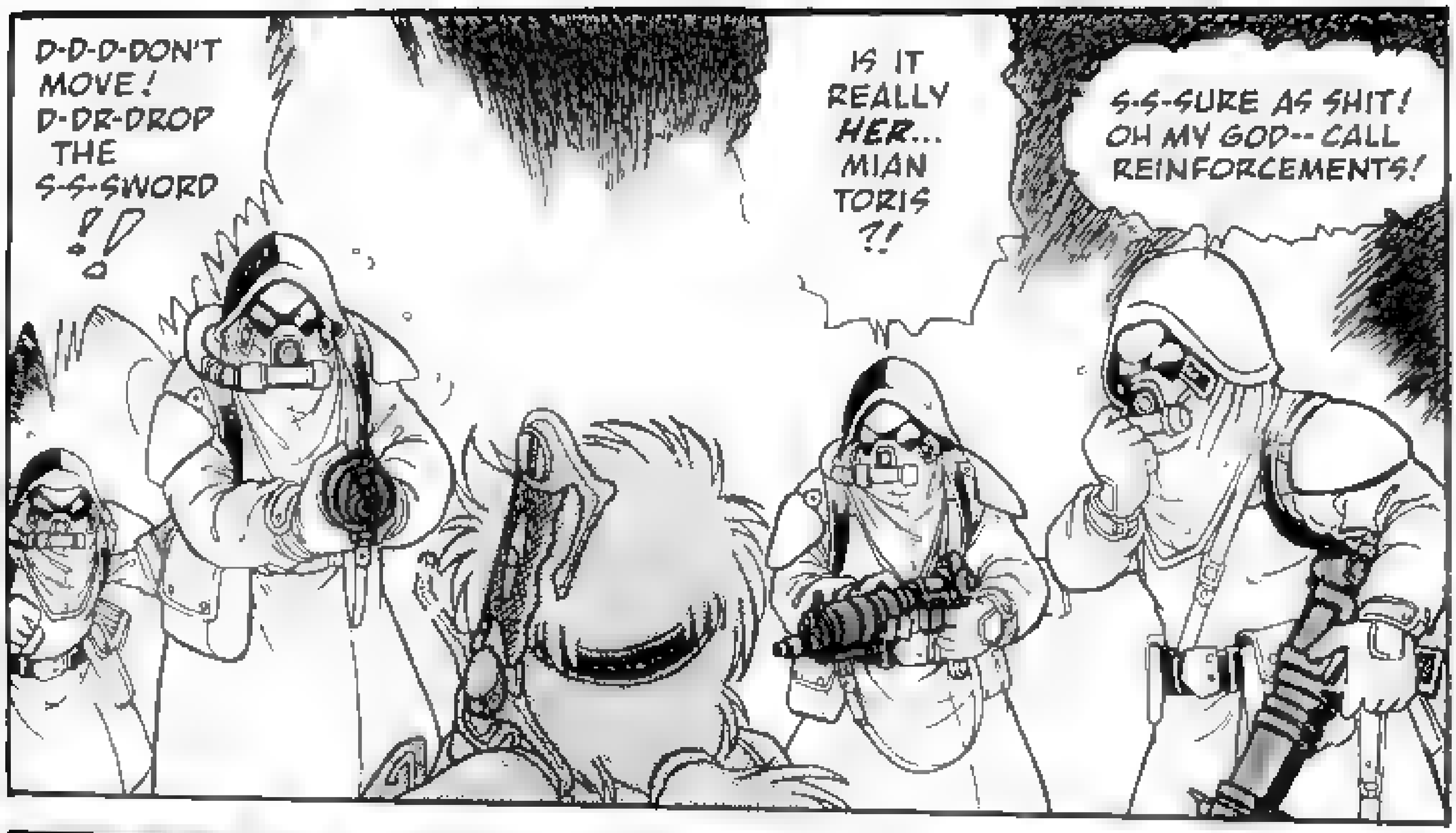

OWW...
"SHEE-IT, MAN... YOU REALLY THINK THAT BITCH IS HIDING OUT HERE?"

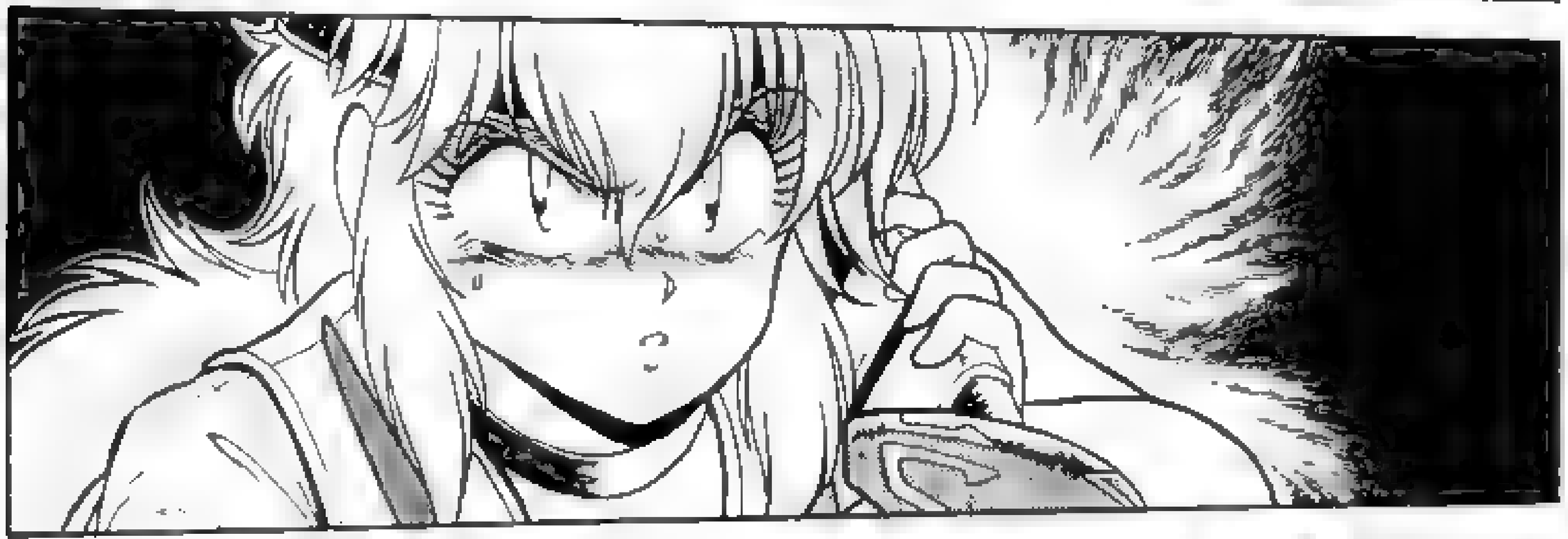

AN IMPERIAL PATROL!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, ASSHOLE! THAT'S WHY WE USED THE MOLD BUG HERE.
GODDAMN IT... THAT'S ONE BROAD I CAN DO WITHOUT. BESIDES, HOW DO WE EVEN KNOW OUR GUNS'LL WORK...?

DAMN!

!

IT'S-IT'S HER!!


D-D-D-DON'T MOVE! D-DR-DROP THE S-S-SWORD !!
IS IT REALLY HER... MIAN TORIS ?!
S-S-SURE AS SHIT! OH MY GOD-- CALL REINFORCEMENTS!



HEY--AIN'T SHE ACTING KINDA WEIRD...?
YEAH.. I DON'T THINK SHE CAN MOVE!
DON'T TELL ME THAT BIOWEAPON REALLY WORKED?! ON MIAN TORIS?!
WE'RE NOT DREAMING.. ARE WE?

OKAAAAY. EASY NOW-- DON'T LET HER GET AWAY. THE TRAP WORKED... NOW IT'S OUR TURN.

YOU SCUMBAGS! GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!!

LET GO! I SAID LET GO!

YOU'RE HURTING ME!!

HEY, MAN-- WHO'DA THOUGHT WE'D NAB HER SO EASY?

LEMME GO!!

THE EMPRESS IS GONNA *LOVE* THIS. HOW ABOUT IT, SOLDIER-- TWO-RANK PROMOTION, DOUBLE PAY.. IT'S THE BIG TIME!

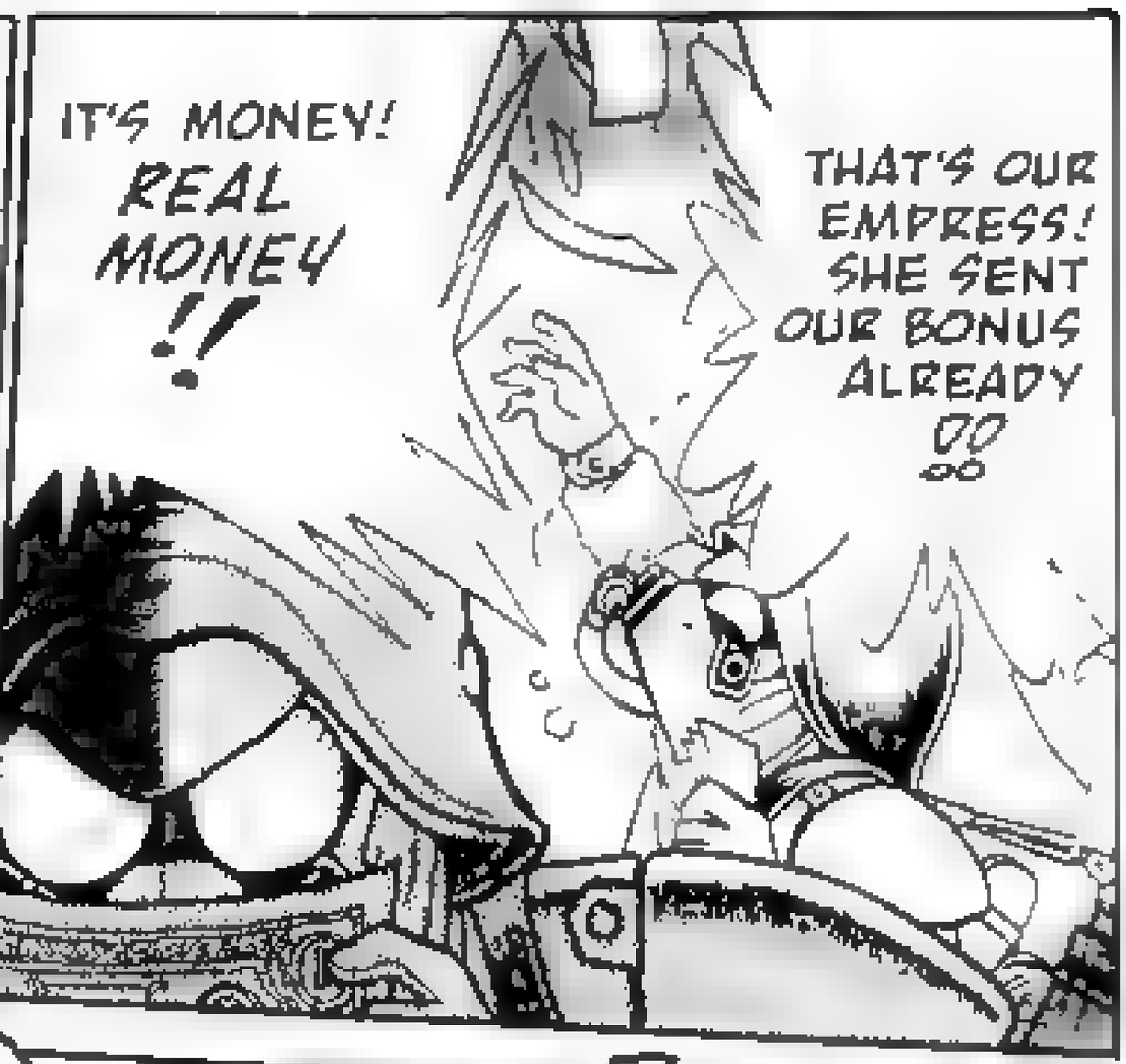
MIAN ?!

DAMMIT! I'VE GOT NO CHOICE!

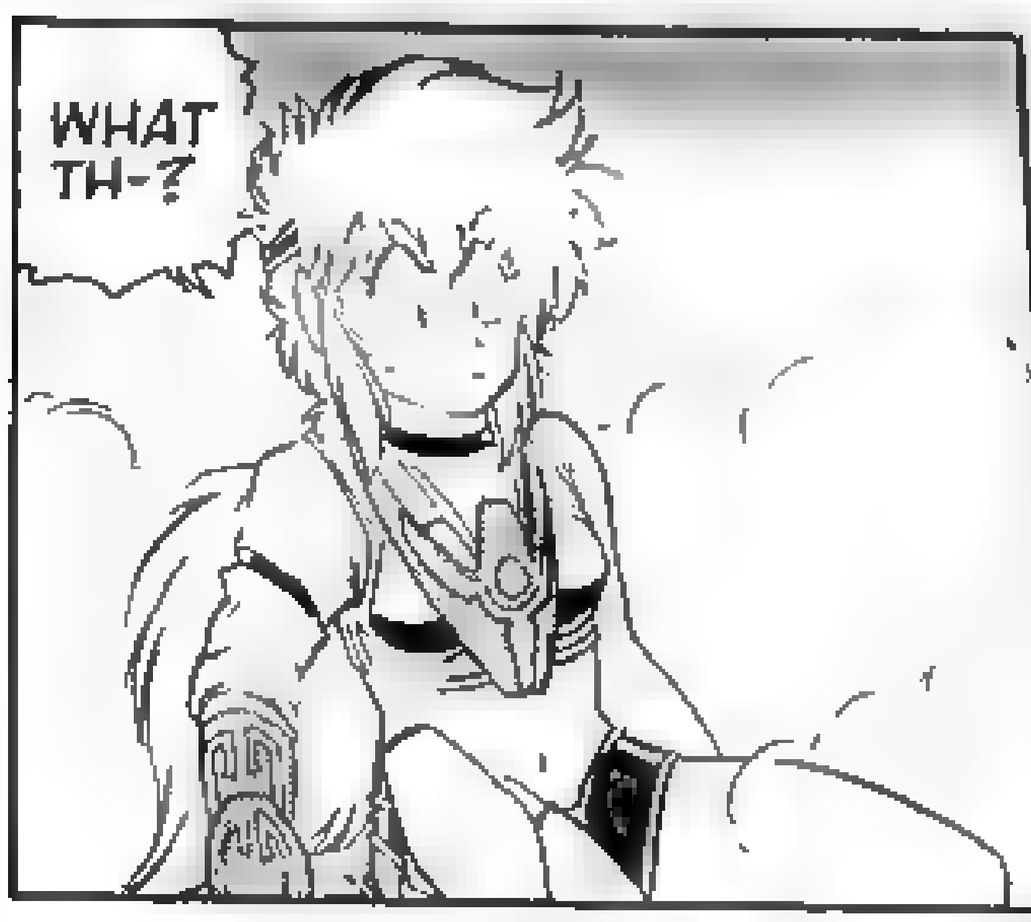
BABO! FORGIVE ME!!

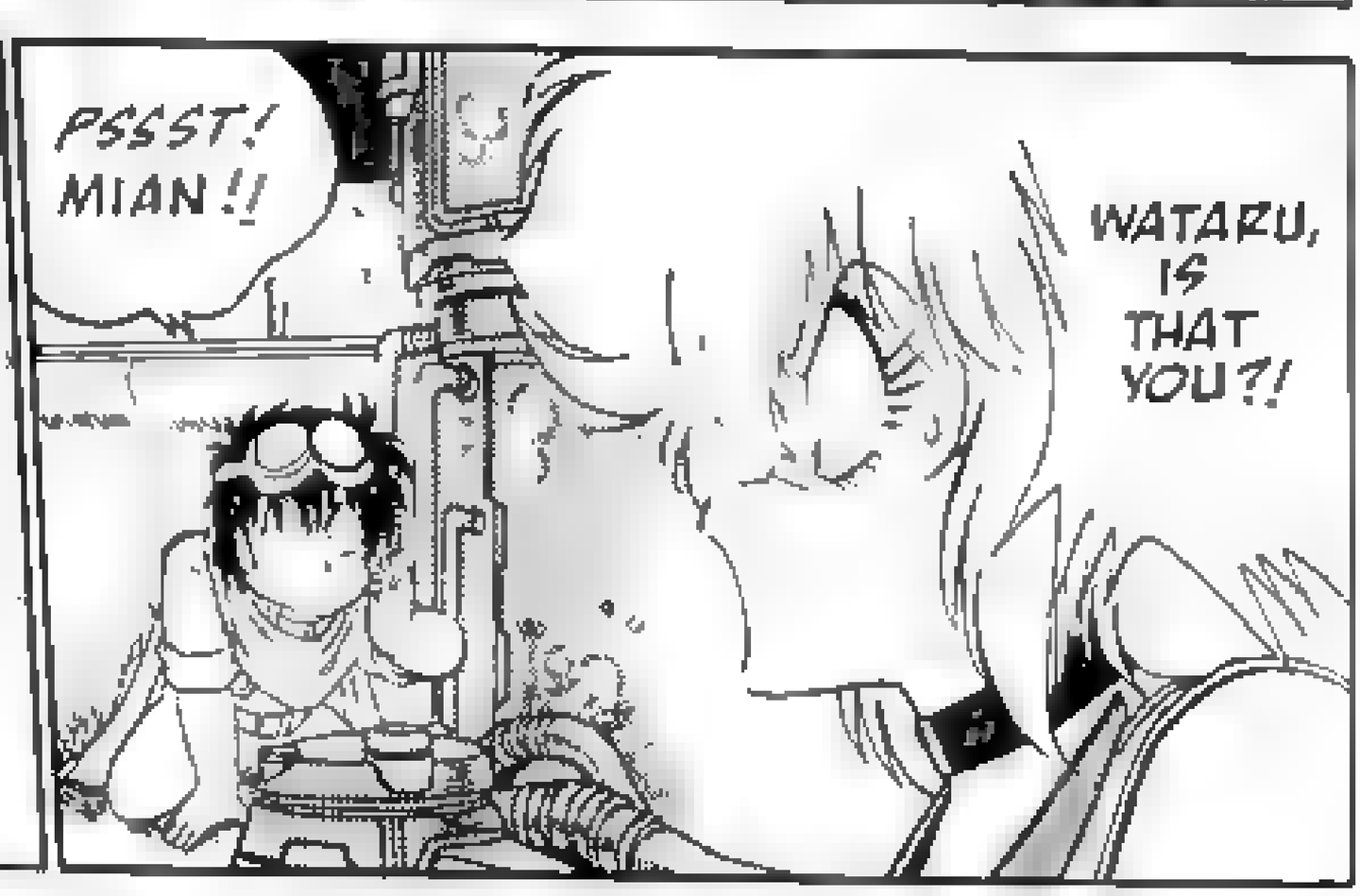
ALEE!!

HUH ?
HEY ! WHAT'S THAT ?!


IT'S MONEY! REAL MONEY !!
THAT'S OUR EMPRESS! SHE SENT OUR BONUS ALREADY !!

YAHOOO!!
LONG LIVE THE QUEEN !!


WHAT TH-?


PSSST! MIAN !!
WATARU, IS THAT YOU?!

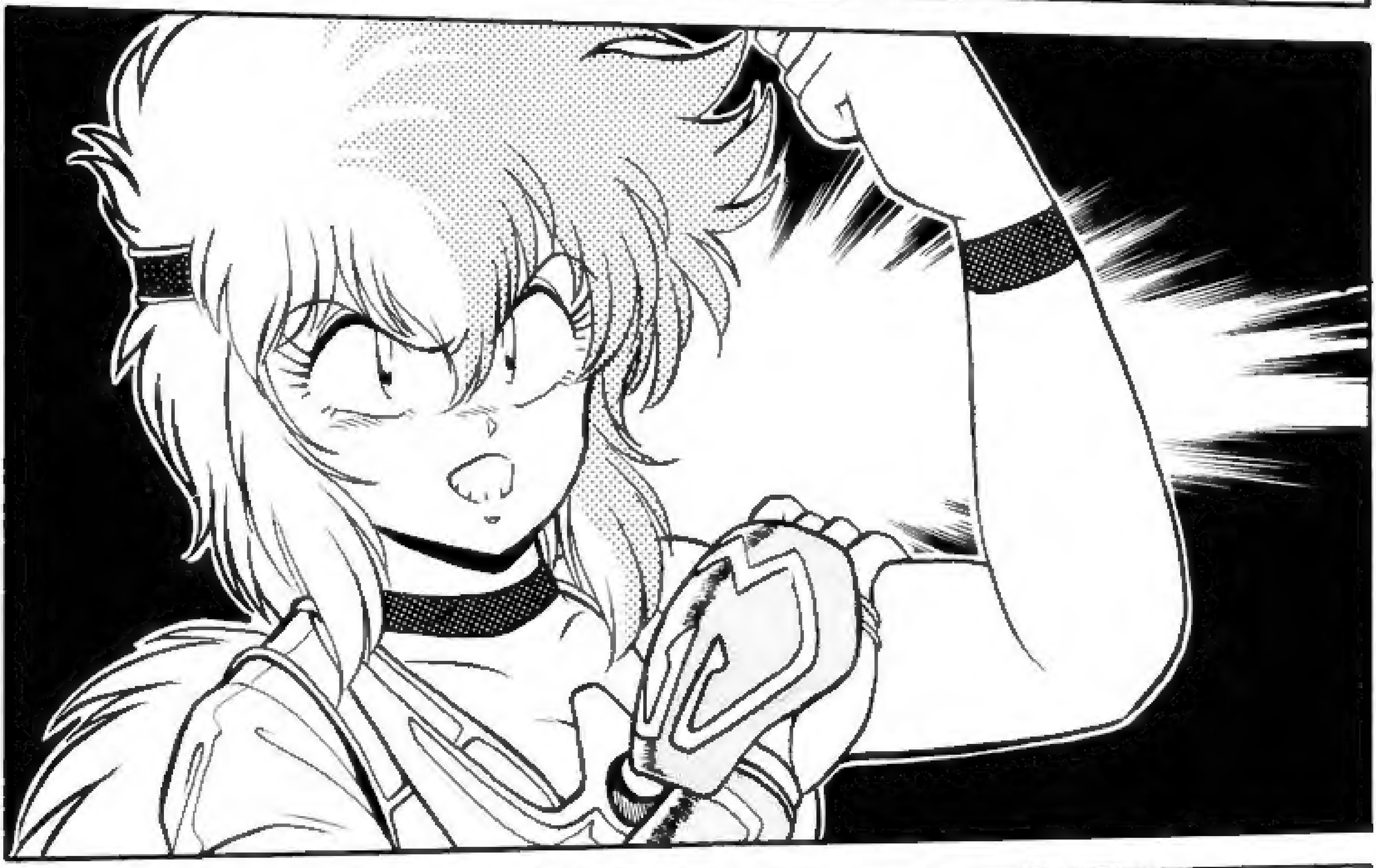
QUICK! SWALLOW THIS! IF WE'RE LUCKY IT'LL FIX YOU!
WHAT IS THIS CRAP?!
SHUT UP AND EAT IT!!

GULP

YAIEE! THAT'S MY MONEY! GET YOUR MEATHOOKS OFF IT!!
WHAT YOU SAYING ?

THIS IS OUR BONUS, PYGMY !
IDIOT! SINCE WHEN DO BONUSES FALL OUTTA THE SKY?!

SPLASH!!



UH, HOLD ON GUYS-- SHE'S BACK !
I TOLD YOU NOT TO TAKE YOUR EYES OFF HER!!
BUT SARGE! THE MONEY... THE MONEY...

YOU DID WHAT? YOU FED ME CHEAP AKOGI MOLD KILLER ?!

WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING!! I CAN'T EAT THAT CRAP! I'M A DELICATE, REFINED, AND ELEGANT ANDROID, YOU FRIGGIN' ASSHOLE!!

HEY, COOL IT-- I FIXED YOU, RIGHT?

HMM... YOU'VE GOT A POINT.

HAPPY HAPPY JOY JOY!! RIGHT?

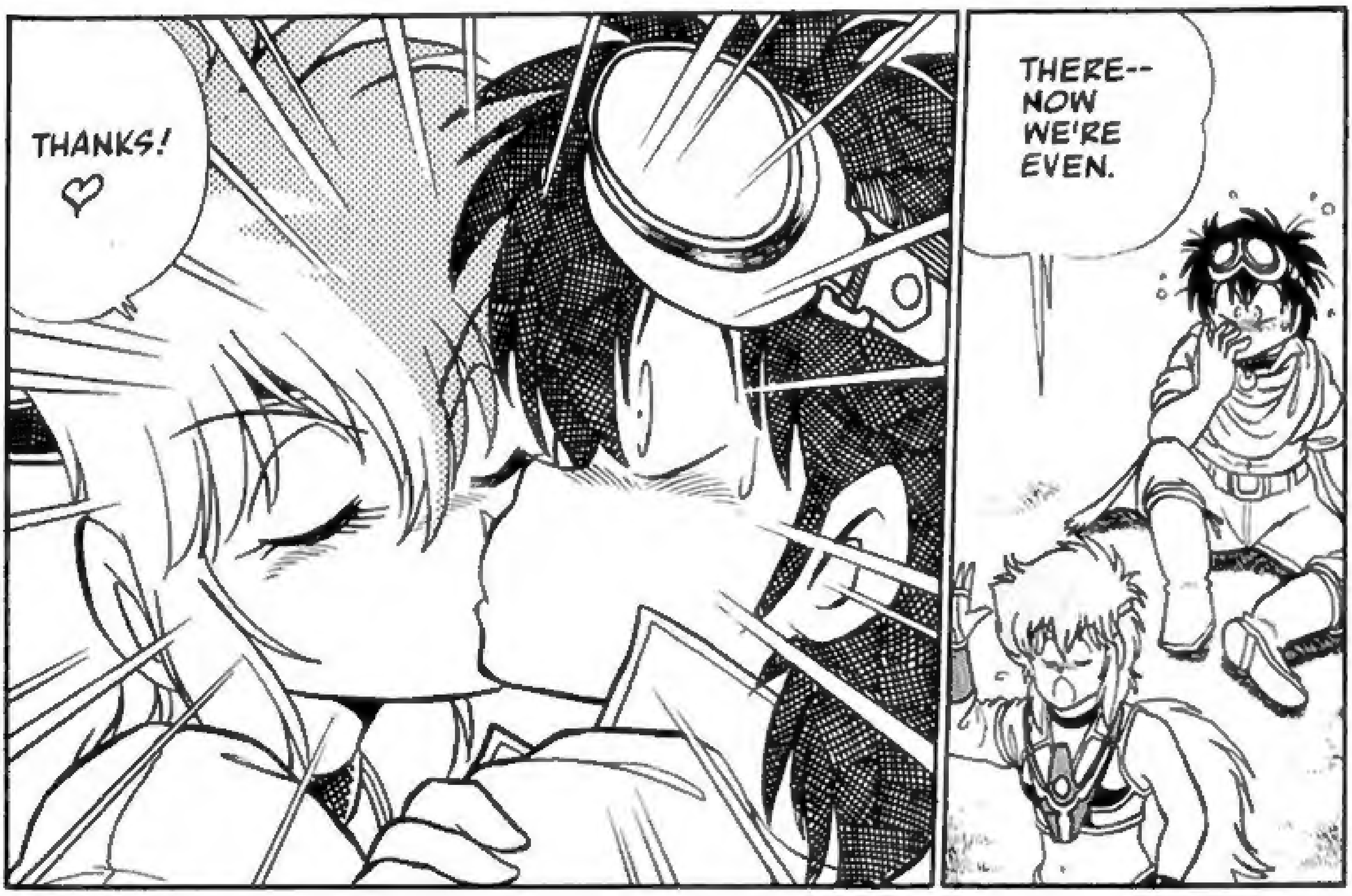
"JOY JOY" THIS, DIMBULB!

B-BUT I SAVED YOUR LIFE!!

SHUT UP!! HOW DARE YOU!!

YOU TURNED ON YOUR MASTER, REMEMBER ?!!
NO! HELP! MERCY !!
Hmph!

JUST ONE MORE THING, WATARU...
AIEEE! I'M SORRY! I WAS BAD! NEVER AGAIN! I'LL GROVEL! I'LL CRAWL !!


THANKS! ♡
THERE-- NOW WE'RE EVEN.

LORD HA' MERCY, AT LAST A BREAK IN THOSE CLOUDS!
FINALLY, A CHANCE TO DRY THE BEDDING.
GOODNESS, DEARIES-- AREN'T YOU ON YOUR WAY YET?
GEE, WE MEANT TO LEAVE, BUT...
THE SUN COMING OUT LIKE THAT DRIED HIM RIGHT UP.
NOW WHAT'RE WE SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THE LITTLE RAISIN ?!